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**THE TIMES**  
**Tomorrow**  
**Riverside**  
Vladimir Promyslov, Mayor of Moscow arrives at County Hall as the guest of the GLC.  
**Seaside**  
Alan Hamilton visits two resorts that have no intention of being left behind by foreign sun spots.  
**Countryside**  
Beryl Downing on the best of Britain's regional wares and fare.  
**Offside**  
David Miller assesses the state of soccer in the United States.  
**Seaside**  
Peter Nichols follows a trail of drugs from Italy to the Middle East, a trail with a Mafia connexion and links with Italian freemasonry.

**Thatcher pledge on hanging**  
Legislation to reintroduce capital punishment would have to be put to MPs within the next 12 months after an affirmative vote in the Commons next Wednesday, Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Cabinet.  
Whitehall sources had said that the weight of government business was such that there was no prospect of legislation for at least 16 months. Page 2

**Paris hijack drama ends**  
Six Iranian hijackers surrendered in Paris yesterday allowing all 199 hostages to go free. They gave up after the intervention of Mr Massoud Rajavi, the leader-in-exile in Paris of the Iranian Mujahedin left-wing guerrilla movement. Page 6

**Union stand**  
Leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union have drawn up plans to call industrial action if members are fired or imprisoned under labour legislation. Page 2

**Euro-doom**  
The European Parliament is preparing a Domesday report on the EEC economy which it hopes will shock people into accepting lower wages, reduced welfare benefits and more trade union control. Recovery strategy, page 16

**Holiday sales**  
Far fewer discounted holidays are available for late bookers this summer because of a late rise in sales and cuts in the number of holidays on offer. Page 3

**Road toll down**  
Deaths and serious injuries to front seat occupants of cars and light vans fell by a quarter in the two months after seat belts were made compulsory. Page 3

**Lord Tonypandy**  
Mr George Thomas, former Speaker of the House of Commons, who was made a viscount on his retirement is to take the title of Lord Tonypandy.

**Society killer**  
A Spanish lawyer's son was convicted of murdering his millionaire, aristocratic in-laws at the end of a sensational trial in Madrid. Page 5

**Burglar profile**  
A typical burglar is likely to be a teenager whose primary motive is material gain or perhaps excitement, according to a crime survey of 11,000 households. Page 3

**Edmonds back**  
England have recalled Phil Edmonds, the Middlesex spin bowler, for the first Test match against New Zealand, starting at the Oval next Thursday. Page 29

**Leader page, 13**  
Letters: On capital punishment, from Mr J Stanton, and others; police, from Sir Kenneth Newman; social policy, from Mr M Wick.

**Leading articles: Youth opportunities; interest rates; Parliamentary committees.**  
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The hawk behind the American eagle; David Watt on the East-West impasse; Scotland for the Scots - or the tourists? Spectrum; Koestler and the gallows debate, Friday page; Crisis in the Cooperative Women's Guild.

**Obituary, page 14**  
The Most Rev Philip Strong, Miss Edith Ramsay.

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# Cabinet agrees £500m emergency package

## Spending cuts hit NHS and defence

● The Cabinet agreed to a package of £500m in expenditure cuts and the raising of an equal amount by extra sales of public assets.

● The latest Treasury forecast is thought to show public borrowing is running at about £3,000m over the Budget target of £2,200m.

● The Royal College of Nursing called cuts in the national health service "a betrayal".

● Mr Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, forecast a "disastrous effect on public sector provision, on health care and on jobs".

By Julian Haviland and Frances Williams

Early evidence of the determination of Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to try to keep down public spending - as he promised Parliament last week, was furnished yesterday when the Cabinet agreed to an emergency package of £500m in expenditure cuts in the current financial year and to the raising of an equal amount by extra sales of public assets.

Mr Lawson may be forced to make further and bigger cuts in public spending in the autumn if he intends to restore the Government's original plans. The cuts announced yesterday do not go nearly far enough.

The latest Treasury forecast, prepared before yesterday's measures, is thought to show public borrowing running about £3,000m over the Budget target of £2,200m, almost entirely because of over-spending by Government departments and local authorities.

This means further cuts of as much as £2,000m may be necessary if public spending is to be held to the planned £120,000m in 1983-84.

Mr Lawson was careful to say the measures would bring spending "closer to the course" laid out in February's White Paper, not that they would bring it back on track.

Mr Lawson is thus faced with an agonising dilemma - whether to push through, against all odds, more painful cuts in spending to keep public borrowing down, or to give way, leaving his financial strategy in tatters.

More spending will mean higher taxes, rather than the reductions Mr Lawson wishes to deliver, or higher borrowing, putting paid to hopes of lower interest rates.

In the Commons Mr Lawson said an adjustment of some £1,100m was needed to bring expenditure close to the planned total of £119,600m.

Some £100m would be saved in the current year by allowing a limited carry-forward of under-spending on capital programmes - something long demanded by the Defence Department in particular and hitherto resisted by the Treasury - which Mr Lawson said would reduce the "end-year surge" by departments keen to use all their allocations.

Mr Lawson told the Commons the savings will be made by reducing cash limits, by 1 per cent for pay and for central government administration, and by 2 per cent for capital procurement and other elements. There is also to be a 2 per cent reduction across the board in the external financing limits of nationalized industries, saving about £57m.

Last night the Treasury calculated that the approximate effect of the cuts on the various programmes would be defence £240m, overseas aid £20m, employment £25.3m, education £36m, health £140m, transport £16m.

Mr Norman Fowler, secretary of State for Social Services, said indications had been that spending on programmes for which he was responsible was running at some £30m more than planned - one third from spending on family practitioner services, two thirds on social security spending.

As these are not cash-limited but depend on demand, savings by his department will have to come from elsewhere. Mr Fowler said they would get back on target by setting lower



## Defence budget £230m less than White Paper forecast

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Within 24 hours of publishing his defence White Paper, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, suffered the embarrassment yesterday of having to announce that defence spending this year would be about £230m less than the figures given in the White Paper.

This was the result of the statement in the Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The bill was, however, sweetened for Mr Heseltine by a change in government accounting procedures which will in future allow departments to carry forward into the next financial year amounts by which they underspend their budgets.

The Ministry of Defence has been pressing for this reform for a long time.

The budget reduction will bring it down from £15,975m to £15,745m. It comprised a £70m reduction in forecast pay and administration costs and a £160m decrease in proposed capital spending programmes.

Mr Heseltine said: "The word 'cut' does not come into it. The issue is the rate at which we increase expenditure."

Asked why the spending plans had been changed just one day after the White Paper, he said: "I knew there would be a discussion today, but I had no means of knowing what the outcome would be."

He said if the whole of the £70m pay costs were to be saved by a employment cuts it would cost 5,500 jobs. This would be on top of the 9,000 jobs that the Ministry is already committed to saving by next April. "I am not saying that is what I am going to do," he said.

Job saving could affect civilians and members of the armed services, but he said that nothing would be done to reduce fighting capability.

Mr Heseltine said that even after these reductions in spending the defence budget this year would be 3.1 per cent higher in real terms than last year. It would mean that defence spending since the Conservatives came to power in 1979 had risen by 17.1 per cent if spending on the Falklands campaign were included, and 12.5 per cent if it were excluded.

Last year defence spending rose by 5.9 per cent in real terms, including the Falklands, but only 0.6 per cent if the Falklands were excluded.

He said the ability to roll forward any cash that was underspent at the end of future financial years would enable the Ministry to maintain a more even and rational flow of spending.

The amount which can be carried forward will be limited to 5 per cent of the capital budget of between about £300m and £350m.



Swinging Prince: Prince Charles on the bongos yesterday with Vernon Mousington at the Caribbean Centre, Ipswich.

## Railmen's vote may clinch Kinnock win

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Labour Party leadership was practically clinched for Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday when the swing to the left in the National Union of Railwaymen delivered him another large slice of the trade union block vote.

By an overwhelming majority, the NUR delegate conference in Bridlington opted for the left-centre candidate to succeed Mr Michael Foot, but checked the slide towards political militancy by deciding to nominate Mr Roy Hattersley as deputy leader.

The NUR, which has 160,000 affiliated votes is the first union to determine its preference after a branch consultation exercise, and the outcome is bound to give encouragement to Labour moderates promoting the so-called "dream ticket" of a Kinnock-Hattersley partnership at the top.

By contrast, the result is a blow for the hard left, which was hoping to pick up the railwaymen's support and create a bandwagon of backing for Mr Michael Meacher as deputy leader.

The Meacher campaign organization is counting on the votes of at least half of the union (who make up 40 per cent of the electoral college), but a Hattersley aide said last night: "Nobody who is serious in the

Kinnock camp would be interested in having Meacher as deputy. The Labour Party would be no longer in business for a generation. The unions know that perfectly as well." The only people who don't are the constituency parties - and unfortunately they are not interested in power, as we know."

In the NUR vote yesterday, Mr Kinnock took 52 votes for the leadership Mr Hattersley 19, Mr Eric Heffer 3 and Mr Peter Shore 1. In the vote for deputy leader, the political divide fell the other way, with Mr Hattersley picking up 42 votes, Mr Meacher 34, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody 6, Mr Heffer 3 and Mr Shore 1. Neither of the last two is standing as deputy leader. There was one spoiled paper.

The left reacted sharply to suggestions that there was now a steady drift towards Mr Hattersley for deputy leader.

"The more this goes on the more the 'dream ticket' turns sour", a Meacher campaign man said. It would mean two separate leaders. The trade unions on the left know it is a recipe for disaster. It means war. If they elect those two the battle will go on."

Each side is now updating its calculations in the light of yesterday's NUR decision.

## Steel to take a break as leader

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A combination of personal and political reasons are behind the decision of Mr David Steel, announced yesterday, to take a break from the leadership of the Liberal Party.

Mr Steel is standing down for two months because he is hurt by backbiting criticism from within his own party, tired by the strains of the general election and being leader for seven years and anxious to spend more time with his family.

He is also unhappy over views about the long-term development of the Alliance expressed by Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, since their weekend talks three weeks ago. Although Mr Steel ended those talks with the understanding that Dr Owen shared his belief in the need for greater convergence between the parties, he believes that the SDP leader has laid too much emphasis since on their separate identities.

Excessive separatism, Mr Steel believes, is out of tune with the feelings of the grass roots in both parties.

As the Liberals yesterday pondered the implications of their leader's decision to take a "sabbatical" few doubted that he would be back in charge by the time of the annual assembly in the autumn.

Mr Steel said there was nothing "dramatic" about it, but it is known that he has been deeply hurt by criticism of his style of leadership by party activists and some MPs, notably Mr David Alton and Mr Cyril Smith.

His action yesterday was seen by many of his friends as a warning that there is a limit to how much he would take. He said in Edinburgh: "I think it is no bad thing that the party should have the opportunity of seeing how they get on on their own. It could be a very uplifting experience for them as well as for myself."

Several MPs argued at the meeting of the Parliamentary Liberal Party on Wednesday that Mr Steel should take his break without a formal announcement, but Mr Steel, who was not present, wanted it to be known in the party.

It quickly became clear yesterday that his action would not quell those critics who claim he is autocratic. Mr Smith said on television: "The view of some of us is that there has been a lack of consultation between David and his colleagues in the parliamentary party. We got the impression the election was being run by David Steel and the gang of four and the rest of us were total nonentities."

Mr Steel will welcome the extra time with his family. He said during the election campaign: "I feel I have definitely missed out on quite a chunk of family life. My children feel it. My wife feels it."

## 'Palimony' girl beaten to death

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Former actress Vicki Morgan, who sued the millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale for \$5m (£3.2m), claiming he had promised to keep her for life, was yesterday found beaten to death, police said.

Lieutenant Dan Cooke said Mr Marvin Pancoast, aged 33, was being held in custody. After he walked into a police station and allegedly said: "I just killed someone." He would probably be charged today.

The partially-clad body of Miss Morgan, aged 29, was found in her Hollywood flat and a blood-stained baseball bat was near by, Lieutenant Cooke said.

## Print jobs 'in danger' as talks break down

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The crisis at the strike-bound Financial Times deepened last night as talks to end the five-week stoppage resulted in deadlock.

Management accused the National Graphical Association of defying a mutually agreed formula for negotiation and has started fresh approaches to the rival print union Sogat. It is an attempt to restart the paper.

The FT is now planning to put its manual workers on basic wages next week and the imminent possibility of whole-sale dismissals is not being discounted.

In mediation talks yesterday, Mr Bryn Griffiths, president of the NGA, is understood to have said that any "interference" by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, would not be helpful. "We are a sovereign union," he is reported to have said. Mr Murray underwrote

the whole negotiating framework and said he expected both parties "to respect the outcome of the agreed procedure".

The breakdown - it is officially called an adjournment without a date for a restart - will now test Mr Murray's resolve and his ability to whip into line the 24 machine minders at the centre of the strike.

National leaders of the NGA are thought to be under considerable pressure from the men's chapel (office branch) and to have been forced against their better judgment to ignore the mediator's recommendations.

Mr Andrew Kerr, chairman of the mediation committee, has turned down the machine minders' demand for a "substantial increase" on the company's offer of £304.67, but has conceded new manning levels

subcommittee investigating the matter.

Mr Donald Albosta, a Democratic Representative from Michigan who is chairing the subcommittee's investigations, said the evidence he had seen so far suggested that "a sex scandal could be created out of this testimony."

He added: "There have been people who have made statements to lead us to believe there were sexual favours involved. It's just hearsay but it seems to be coming from reliable sources."

The House inquiry is one of two investigations taking place. The other is being conducted by the FBI at the behest of the Justice Department.

According to Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counselor, President Reagan is prepared to give evidence to the FBI investigators if asked to do so.

However, he added that as the President knew nothing about the matter until the controversy began two weeks ago he would not be a very good source.

According to a report in The New York Times, Reagan campaign officials had run an operation to collect information about President Carter's foreign policy.

## MPs set to fight pay curb

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday decided that it would attempt to enforce a 4 per cent pay restraint on the Commons, in spite of advice that it would be defeated by a combined force of MPs from both sides of the Chamber.

The Shadow Cabinet has already been informed that most Labour MPs favour payment of the full £19,000 recommended by the Review Body on Top Salaries, an increase of 30.9 per cent on the current salary of £14,510.

Mr Edward du Cann, newly-elected chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee has to decide whether he too, will go for the full £19,000 as his friends suggested he would before his election to that office.

**Spend July somewhere fashionable.**

**The Harvey Nichols Sale.**

You'll find huge reductions in all departments, with many items at half price, including Designer Collections, Separates and Knitwear, Shoes, Fashion Accessories, Leisurewear, Menswear, Childrenswear, Revillon Furs, Furniture, China, Glass, Linens and Greens Electrical.

You'll also find attractive introductory offers in our new Carpets and Beds Department.

Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

**Sale starts Thursday, 9.30-7**

## Sex, the CIA and a White House mole

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The furor over the purloined Carter White House papers is developing into a major Washington scandal, with allegations of sexual favours and the recruiting of former CIA men by the Reagan campaign team being among the new ingredients that have been added to what is becoming for the White House an increasingly anxious brew.

More requested documents, some of them described as coming from a "reliable White House mole", have made their way to The Washington Post, which, clearly relishing the chance of reliving past Watergate glories, has splashed them across its front and inside pages.

At the same time further contradictory evidence by senior Reagan aides has not only added to the public's growing awareness that the affair is not just a matter of midsummer media madness, but has also fuelled new tensions between "conservative" and "pragmatic" factions in the White House.

Allegations that sexual favours may have been used to obtain some of the Carter briefing papers that found their way to the Reagan camp during the 1980 election campaign have been made to the House subcommittee investigating the matter.

Mr Donald Albosta, a Democratic Representative from Michigan who is chairing the subcommittee's investigations, said the evidence he had seen so far suggested that "a sex scandal could be created out of this testimony."

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## Councils in Wales lose grants of £12.6m

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, announced last night that £12.6m will be withheld from the rate support grant that would have been paid to Welsh councils in 1983-84 if they had not exceeded government spending targets (David Walker writes).

In total, the Welsh counties and districts are planning to spend more than £21m in excess of government targets.

Cardiff, which came under Conservative control at the May council elections but was Labour when its budget was made, is among the leading urban overspenders in Wales, along with Swansea, Cwmwd, Gwent, Mid-Glamorgan and South Glamorgan, are among the overspending counties.

## £25,000 test tube baby appeal

A £25,000 appeal has been launched in the North-east to provide resources for a laboratory to enable *in vitro* fertilization facilities to be offered.

The appeal has been launched by Dr Tom Lind, a consultant obstetrician at Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, who believes that local women could benefit from the introduction of National Health Service facilities for test-tube babies.

## Doctor guilty of misconduct

A woman doctor was found guilty yesterday of serious professional misconduct for issuing drug prescriptions other than for bona fide treatment.

Dr Ann Dally, aged 57, of Devonshire Place, Marylebone, London was admonished by the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council in London, after it was told she had prescribed diclofenac for a man who was later convicted of drug offences.

## Welsh speaking decline halted

The latest census figures based on the 1981 count indicate that the steady decline in the numbers of Welsh speakers has been halted. Just over 500,000 people, or 19 per cent of the population, can speak the language, a 1.8 per cent decline over 10 years.

There has been a marked increase in the number of young people claiming fluency, an indication of the success of the Welsh medium schools.

## School cleaners made redundant

Redundancy notices were sent out yesterday to 1,200 school cleaners in Cambridgeshire who are being replaced by private contractors from the next term.

## Legislation in a year after vote on hanging, Thatcher says

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday insisted in Cabinet that any legislation to reintroduce capital punishment, after a successful vote in the Commons next Wednesday, would have to be put through Parliament within the next 12 months.

Whitehall sources had repeatedly stated on Wednesday that the weight of government business was such that there was no prospect of immediate legislation, which would therefore have to be held up for at least 16 months and the next parliamentary session.

It is understood that Mrs Thatcher recognized the anger that such delay would have provoked in her own party and despite the difficulties, ministers were forced to accept that judgment.

The second Whitehall confusion, over the status of the legislation, was also clarified yesterday. Some sources had stated on Wednesday that the legislation would be a full government measure, a move which could have provoked resignations from ministers who, in all conscience, could never vote for capital punishment in any form.

But Mrs Thatcher told the Commons: "There has always been a free vote and if there were to be a Bill introduced consequent upon a vote to restore capital punishment, I would expect it to be introduced by a private member."

That statement brought jeers from the Opposition benches, because the former Home Secretary, now Lord Whitelaw, had suggested during the election that it would be a full government Bill.

Mrs Thatcher told MPs: "The Government would give all possible drafting assistance to that private member, because we would consider that to be in accordance with the wishes of the House. I would expect the Government to provide time for that Bill to be introduced and debated during the current session."

It was said last night that the legislation would therefore be a government Bill in all but name, but it was not clear what line the Prime Minister had herself pursued during the Cabinet discussion: whether she had in fact wanted a private member's Bill.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, told MPs yesterday that a one-day debate would be perfectly adequate, despite a request from one of his own backbenchers, Mr Fergus Montgomery, Altrincham and Sale, for a two-day debate.

The votes, which are expected to commence at 10pm, will probably begin with an amendment on the restoration of capital punishment "for murder resulting from acts of terrorism".

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, told MPs yesterday that a one-day debate would be perfectly adequate, despite a request from one of his own backbenchers, Mr Fergus Montgomery, Altrincham and Sale, for a two-day debate.

The potential venture between the two loss-making companies has angered steelworkers on both sides of the Atlantic, particularly as it could cost an estimated 5,000 jobs.

An advertisement placed in the national British press today bears the headline "A very risky steel deal". Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of BSC and Mr David Roderick, of United States Steel, are accused of being engaged in "secrecy-shrouded negotiations" putting together a high-risk gamble.

The plan, yet to be approved by either Government, involves the annual export of three million tonnes of slabs from the Ravenscraig works in Scotland to the Fairless works in Pennsylvania. US Steel, the unions say is demanding that BSC invest \$390m in the Fairless finishing works - "a sweet deal for US Steel but a bitter pill for British taxpayers."

Mr William Sims, leader of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the largest British steel union, said yesterday: "It is ludicrous that a deal is being done behind closed doors, involving millions of pounds of taxpayers' money, with absolutely nothing being said to Government or to Parliament."

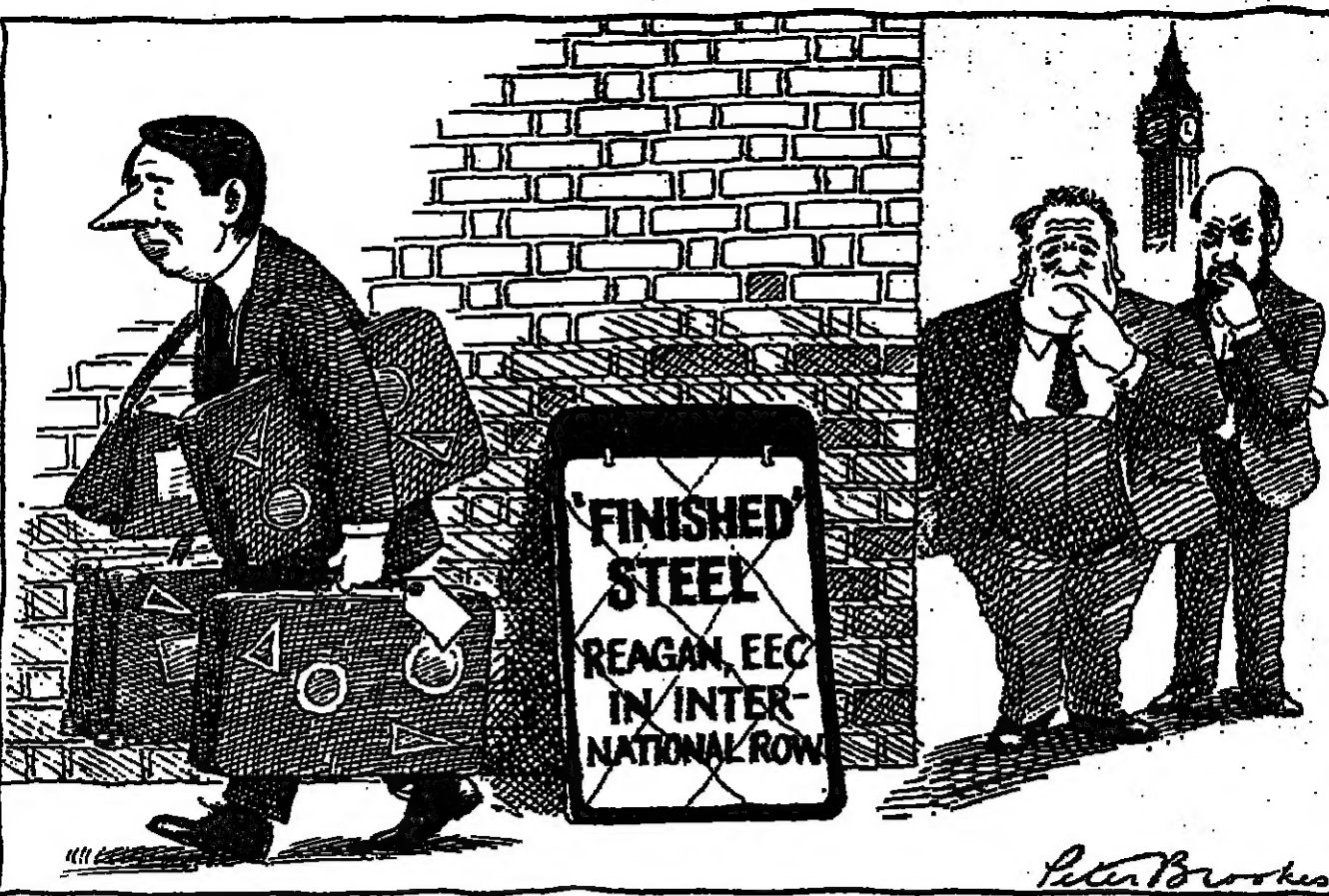
The deal, he added, was being put together by two Americans who happened to be friends. But if half of Ravenscraig was closed and then the legal loopholes were plugged by the Americans, the Scottish plant would be crippled and ready for closure.

The advertisement, signed by Mr Sims and Mr Lloyd McBride, of the United Steelworkers of America, lists six reasons why the deal could fail.

Section 5 (1) of the Public Records Act, 1958. Nearly all of the think tank's output has been kept confidential. Mrs Thatcher told Mr George that she saw no reason to amend "the policy of successive governments" which has sustained the secrecy of its advice to ministers.

Whitehall generally regrets the passing of CPRS, particularly the loss of the collective briefs it prepared for ministers before Cabinet and Cabinet committee meetings, but senior officials reckon that once Mrs Thatcher had decided against it, it was pointless prolonging its life.

They are convinced, however, that something like it will be reinvented under another name by a future prime minister.



"People are reading far too much into my sabbatical"

## Anglo-US attack on steel deal

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Steel unions in Britain and the United States have financed a £250,000 advertising campaign attacking the proposed steel slab export deal between the British Steel Corporation and United States Steel.

The potential venture between the two loss-making companies has angered steelworkers on both sides of the Atlantic, particularly as it could cost an estimated 5,000 jobs.

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Letters, page 13

## Garage staff win pay-docking case

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Petrol stations may be forced to review their procedures after a garage was found guilty yesterday of illegally docking employees' wages to make up for shortfalls in the tills.

In a test prosecution brought by two of the garage's former employees, Action Magistrates in west London found Matzwest Motors guilty of four offences under the little-used Truck Act, 1896, and ordered them to pay maximum fines of £200 on each count.

They also ordered the company to refund to the two employees nearly £90 which had been deducted from their pay packets.

The prosecution, thought to be the first of its kind, has implications for thousands of manual workers, cashiers, shop workers, milkmen and others whose wages are regularly docked.

Afterwards, Mr John Greenwood, a director of the company which runs the Motor Crown petrol chain, said: "We will now digest our misery and decide whether to appeal."

The company will obviously have to review its policy he said. But he added that as the practice was widespread throughout the industry, millions of pounds were involved. "The amount of cash flow involved could be frightening. It is a crucial issue. It could well be that money is in the control of forecourt operators, who are not the brightest of people."

One of the two employees, Mrs Pamela Wells, from Acton, said: "It is a total victory. I think they deserved it. Hopefully this will do something for a lot of others who have suffered."

Their prosecution against the company was backed by the Hounslow Law Centre, which has received more than 75 complaints in the past year over such deductions. Under the Truck Act, it says, deductions are possible but only in accordance with a valid, written contract and they must be fair and reasonable.

Mrs Wells brought the prosecution with Mr Brian Tristram, over the docking of their wages at the Motor Crown garage in Gurnersbury Lane, west London. Their counsel told the court it was a typical self-service garage, with an accessories shop attached, where motorists paid for their petrol.

A feature of such stations was the "particularly nasty practice" which was becoming more and more common, of stopping wages to make up any shortfalls in the till, even though these shortfalls occurred through no fault of the cashier.

Miners call job transfers 'vicious bullying' by NCB

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders yesterday expressed disgust and anger at the "vicious bullying and blackmail tactics" of the National Coal Board backed off from an immediate confrontation over job transfer in the Scottish coalfield.

The National Union of Mineworkers told its members at Polmaise colliery in Striding and Bogside pit in Fife to work normally and allow men transferring from the Cardowan mine in Lanarkshire, which is threatened with closure, to "sign on" for work despite rank-and-file hostility to the move.

Delegates at the NUM conference in Perth carried an emergency motion complaining about the coal board's tactics in transferring men who had opted to quit the doomed pit. The motion insisted that it was a breach of procedure which if repeated would prompt a union boycott of all consultation and review arrangements.

Normal working was being resumed at both collieries last night but tension remains.

Mr George Bolton, vice-president of the Scottish miners, disputed the board's claim the Cardowan miners had been physically prevented from signing on at Polmaise.

But he said: "I very much admire the reaction to the coal board's provocation, but at the same time it is deliberate provocation to cause strikes in the Scottish coalfield."

Trouble arose after some miners at Cardowan agreed to transfer to other pits, before the colliery's fate had been decided under a joint review procedure. Fourteen men who went to sign on at Polmaise were met by an angry crowd of about 100 Cardowan miners, which the NCB argued intimidated and produced at the pit was suspended. At Bogside, the men struck when five men transferred from Cardowan reported for work.

Normal working was being resumed at both collieries last night but tension remains.

## Irish poll on abortion in September

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Irish Government yesterday set Wednesday September 17 as the date for the controversial referendum to amend the constitution to include a prohibition on abortion.

Abortion is already illegal in the Republic but a strong conservative and Catholic lobby has been campaigning to get the ban written into the constitution. They argue that without such a clause abortion could be introduced through a decision of the courts.

Those involved in the mounting anti-abortion campaign maintain that the referendum is unnecessary, as there is no demand to legalize abortion. They also argue that giving equal right of life to the mother and the foetus it could threaten women's lives in that no exceptions, for such common sense.

Those involved in the mounting anti-abortion campaign maintain that the referendum is unnecessary, as there is no demand to legalize abortion. They also argue that giving equal right of life to the mother and the foetus it could threaten women's lives in that no exceptions, for such common sense.

The high-altitude haze consists of hydrocarbons and other organic molecules, formed from methane in photochemical reactions induced by solar radiation.

Therefore, the surface is probably a mixture of ice (the main constituent of Titan) and organic solids. That would be fundamentally different from any other surface in the solar system.

But the truth will not be known until a space probe is sent through Titan's haze.

Reference: *Icarus*, volume 54, pages 337-352.

Mr Fitzgerald: Regret at involvement

mon operations as ectopic pregnancy and cancer of the womb, will be written in.

The two main political leaders, Dr Garret Fitzgerald the Prime Minister and Mr Charles Haughey the leader of Fianna Fail, agreed to hold the referendum during a closely fought general election campaign.

On Wednesday this week Dr Fitzgerald said he regretted becoming involved. The passage of the referendum would be seen in Northern Ireland as a step backward he said.

Leaflets issued of 'most wanted man'

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Thousands of leaflets with a photo of Dominic McGlinchey, "The most wanted man in Ireland", were distributed throughout Northern Ireland yesterday as the RUC increased its hunt for a man it described as dangerous, and probably armed.

McGlinchey, aged 29, from Londonderry, is being sought by police on both sides of the border after vanishing while appealing in the Irish Republic against an extradition order to Ulster, where he is wanted for questioning about the murder of a woman six years ago.

During the hearing he admitted being a member of the provisional IRA in 1977, but police believe he has since joined the Irish National Liberation Army and is organizing it in border areas.

Overseas selling prices

A report on July 1 stated that the law forbids abortion where a child could survive apart from the mother and defines this stage as the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy. In fact the law forbids the abortion of a child "capable of being born alive" and states that if the pregnancy has lasted 28 weeks that constitutes prima facie evidence that this is so.

## Science report Teasing the secrets from icy Titan

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Two and a half years after Voyager 1 flew past Saturn, scientists are still teasing discoveries out of the data which the American spacecraft sent back to Earth.

The latest findings show that Titan, Saturn's giant moon, is not the exotic world of methane oceans and methane rainfall that many scientists had predicted (or hoped for). But mysterious wave-like surges of gas do occur.

These "internal" gravity waves" seem to originate near the moon's surface and then propagate through the atmosphere. Although the mechanism is not known, the waves may be triggered by convection as the weak solar radiation heats up the icy ground; the surface temperature on Titan is only 94 degrees above absolute zero (minus 179°C).

Scientists at Stanford University, California, published the latest study of Titan in recent issues of *Icarus* and *Science*. They come from Voyager's radio occultation experiments when the spacecraft flew behind Titan in November, 1980. Its radio transmissions to Earth passed through the moon's atmosphere, and computer analysis of the changing signals has given the atmospheric composition with remarkable accuracy.

Titan is bigger than the planet Mercury and is the only moon in the solar system with an atmosphere, almost entirely nitrogen, with about one per cent methane - too little to condense in the quantities necessary to form clouds, rain, rivers and oceans. The observations kill the idea that methane's role on Titan may be comparable to that of water on Earth.

No substantial clouds float in the Titanian sky. Instead, there is a fairly uniform haze in the upper atmosphere, which prevented Voyager's cameras seeing the moon's surface. The high-altitude haze consists of hydrocarbons and other organic molecules, formed from methane in photochemical reactions induced by solar radiation.

Therefore, the surface is probably a mixture of ice (the main constituent of Titan) and organic solids. That would be fundamentally different from any other surface in the solar system.

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## British grain boom ahead, report says

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The United Kingdom's wheat and barley production could rise by 1987-88 to 10 per cent above last year's record of more than 21 million tonnes, a report published yesterday forecasts.

Most of the extra production could be expected to result from higher yields, but there may also be an increase in the area under cultivation of up to 200,000 hectares, or just over 5 p.c.

These projections are made by a Ministry of Agriculture working group set up last year.

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## IT'S NOT THE BABY WHO NEEDS HELP. IT'S HIS MOTHER.

She's starved of the basic facts on nutrition. And without them her little child will suffer.

It's something Oxfam is trying to put right wherever we can.

In Pachod we helped reduce the number of malnourished children by over 4,000. Not by bringing in food. But by training village workers to advise on nutrition.

We could help with so many projects in the Third World. But every day counts. And so does every pound. We need your help.

I'd like to help. I enclose £5 £10 £20 £  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Post Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Send to: Guy Stringer, Oxfam, Room TM16  
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OXFAM

## Vanishing 'think tank' has cost taxpayer £11.1m

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister has released figures showing the running costs of the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS), the Cabinet's "think tank", which is to disappear when Parliament rises for the summer recess.

Since its foundation by Mr Edward Heath in 1971, the CPRS has cost on average £928,600 a year at 1983 prices. Its staff has oscillated between 15 and 20 in strength.

In a written answer to Mr Tim Eggar, Conservative MP for Enfield, North, Mrs Margaret Thatcher disclosed that the think tank has cost the taxpayer a total of £11.1m (at 1983 prices) since its birth.

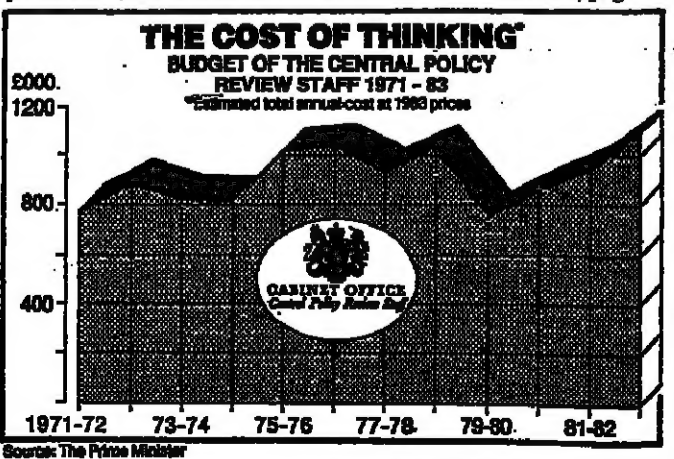
She refused, however, a request from Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall, North, that she declassify unpublished CPRS reports short of the 30-year norm, as allowed under

section 5 (1) of the Public Records Act, 1958. Nearly all of the think tank's output has been kept confidential. Mrs Thatcher told Mr George that she saw no reason to amend "the policy of successive governments" which has sustained the secrecy of its advice to ministers.

Whitehall generally regrets the passing of CPRS, particularly the loss of the collective briefs it prepared for ministers before Cabinet and Cabinet committee meetings, but senior officials reckon that once Mrs Thatcher had decided against it, it was pointless prolonging its life.

They are convinced, however, that something like it will be reinvented under another name by a future prime minister.

Letters, page 13



Source: The Prime Minister

Halal go-ahead

Ritually slaughtered Halal meat is to be introduced into Bradford schools, after a special meeting of Bradford Council's education subcommittee gave unanimous approval to the policy. From September two large school kitchens will start supplying about 1,400 meals

## Storks from Selfridges lift make £7,920

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A piece of the panelling which used to decorate the lifts at Selfridges, the London store, was auctioned by Phillips yesterday for £7,920 (estimate £4,000-£6,000) and bought by Jesse, a dealer from Kensington Church Street.

It is a wrought iron and bronze panel designed by Edgar Brandt with gilt bronze storks among wirework clouds. Replicas of Brandt's 1922 panels were installed in the lifts at Selfridges and have become highly prized collectors' items. One is at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Meanwhile, in Somerset, Lawrence's of Crewkerne were selling Rudyard Kipling's typewriter. It is a Remington "Noisless" and Kipling is known to have been using it around 1931. He gave it to Mrs M. E. Ley, his secretary, and a postcard addressed to her was sold with the machine. In it Kipling pointed out that although she is "silent"..... if you hurry she begins to mutter to herself.

The Lawrence book sale also contained a collection of Wilkie Collins' material at £5,103. His novel *The Moonstone*, sometimes credited as the first detective story, was

represented by a three volume first edition at £1,760 (estimate £400).

At Sotheby's the good summer sale of English watercolours included a new auction price record for work of Johann Heinrich Fuseli, when his wild was drawing of "Medea" sold for £41,800 (estimate £12,000-£18,000).

He also paid a record price for a talented but less than famous Irish portraitist, Hugh Douglas Hamilton. A delightful oval chalk self-portrait in a fur-trimmed hat, probably dating from the 1760s, sold for £8,300 (estimate £300-£1,200).

His portrait drawings have seldom topped the £1,000 mark but Christie's suddenly secured £5,800 for one in June, a sign of new interest.

There was a considerable group of Turner watercolours and all of them sold at prices much in line with presale expectations. A view of "Gibside, County Durham, the seat of the Earl of Strathmore" went to Agnew's at £57,200 (estimate £40,000-£60,000) while "The river Ure at Heckfall, Yorkshire" made £26,400 (estimate £18,000-£24,000) to a private collector.

## TEILHARD de CHARDIN

Scientist, theologian, palaeontologist, author and priest

## CENTENARY EXHIBITION

Chapter House, Westminster Abbey

UNTIL JULY 30 1983

9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.  
(Monday to Saturday)



## Teenagers burgle empty homes for excitement and gain, survey finds

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A typical burglar is likely to be a teenager, highly apprehensive about being caught and keen to avoid confrontation.

His primary motive is material gain, or perhaps excitement, rather than malice. In his own mind he will probably try to discount the distress that he causes. He will either argue that "they can afford it" or that "they are insured".

That profile of the burglar and his crimes come from a study of the results of the British crime survey of 11,000 households in England and Wales presented yesterday to the Home Office workshop at Cambridge University on residential burglary.

Home Office research has found that burglars use different entry points for different types of dwelling. Houses were more vulnerable at the rear or side than the front, where only a third of entries occurred. Two thirds of burglaries were entered through front doors or windows.

Of the burglaries whose time of occurrence was known, about half took place in the daytime (6am to 6pm), a third in the evening and the remainder between midnight and 6am. Most burglaries were committed on weekdays but the daily rate was no higher than at the weekend.

In only 1 per cent of burglaries did a stranger use force against any member of the household. Damage to furniture and other possessions of the house exceeded £50 in only 8 per cent of cases in which the home was entered.

Flats were more likely to be burgled than houses, largely because flats tend to be in cities. Houses at the end of terraces are more likely to be burgled than those in between.

Council houses and flats are more at risk than owner-occupied households, losses from which tend to be higher. Homes which are left empty for several hours a day are more vulnerable than those which are not.

The combined figure for burglary and housebreaking in 1982 was 321,200, against almost 94,000 in 1968, the last year before the present definition of burglary came into effect.

The twentieth century has seen a consistent increase in the amount of disposable goods which people keep in their homes. There has also been a large increase in the number of households in England and Wales, not merely because of the population increases but because of the process by which large families have become fragmented.

Complex split up more often; the elderly less often live with their younger relatives; and live-in domestic staff, once a sizable proportion of the workforce is a rarity. Partly because of that and partly because of changing patterns of employment, many more homes are unoccupied for longer periods, especially in the daytime.

The British crime survey found that half the households were left unoccupied for three or more hours a day on average. Changes of that sort have created a wide range of opportunities for a form of burglary which at the turn of the century was neither burglary in the eyes of the law nor practicable from the offender's point of view: theft after forcible and undetected entry of homes in daytime.

Under the revised definition of burglary police statistics for "burglary in a dwelling" and the "aggravated burglary in a dwelling" have increased from about 180,000 in 1969 to 407,000 in 1982.

But evidence from crime surveys shows that much of that 125 per cent increase is due not to a rise in criminal activity but to increases reported by the public and recorded by the police. Burglary levels have advanced little over the decade since 1972.

## Fewer discounts on late booked holidays

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Fewer discounted holidays are on offer for late-bookers of package tours this summer. A poor start to the booking season has been offset by later sales substantially above last year's while some operators have reduced the number of holidays on offer.

The net effect is a near balance between supply and demand, unlike last year, when to sell off packages operators were frequently cutting a quarter and even a half from brochure prices for late-bookers. Pickfords Travel, one of the top travel agency chains, reports summer season sales by the beginning of this month up 15 per cent over the same time last year. Thomas Cook's retail shops' sales rose by a third in June on annual comparison and July sales strengthened further.

In this late flush of bookings holidays offered by the top five operators have been most in demand, with sales generally up by a quarter, according to Pickfords. But trade estimates point to Thomson Holidays doing best after the relaunch of its brochure with lower prices. Intasun is also doing well. Thomas Cook now sold £2.5 per cent of its summer holidays with Spain - and parts of Italy - largely sold out.

The more successful the operator is on sales the less likely are discount offers but Thomson nevertheless is offering discounts on what are turning out to be less-favoured destinations such as Malta. Thomson says it has a wide range of holidays on offer still for the high season running from the latter half of July to September. So have the other operators.

Although Horizon's sales have been lagging - with the Thomson move taking its toll - this company has so far always operated a no-discount policy. Sales of Cosmos holidays have also been down although the company tends to benefit from late bookings.

Despite the increase in bookings the package holiday market is still about 5 per cent below last year's levels at this time of the year. But Pickfords and Thomson are looking to an increase of 5 per cent or more by the end of the season.

That would indicate continued higher sales from now. One Pickfords analysis also indicates a discounting has already begun: in the average holiday transaction the amount actually being paid is between 8 and 12 per cent up on last year.

## Sue Lawley to be newsreader

By Kenneth Gosling

Sue Lawley, for 12 years a presenter of the BBC television programme *Nationwide*, is to become a newsreader in September when *Nationwide* is replaced by *60 Minutes*, a new current affairs programme.

She said yesterday that *Nationwide* had been "a lovely job" and that she had been offered the choice of joining the *Nine O'Clock News* or the new programme. "I think I was very lucky I had the choice".

Mr Alan Hart, controller of BBC-1, said that the new programme, from 5.40 pm to 6.40 pm would be shorter and sharper. It would continue with regional "options", but there would be a common style.

Mr Hart said that every area of Britain, including Scotland, supported the new programme. But it means that BBC Scotland will not have its own early evening programme, something for which Mr Patrick Chalmers, the BBC Scottish controller, had been arguing.

Mr Alastair Milne, BBC director-general, said in an interview this week that the BBC had been studying possibilities for the early evening since last August. They had expected that the Channel 4 new programme, now renamed to be about to have its 60-minute slot cut by half, might affect this.

Mr Chalmers had felt that after the early evening news, which will be retained, Scotland should have the chance to set up a more thorough local coverage. But the need for a strong network programme clearly won the day.

Miss Lawley, aged 37, will join John Humphreys on the *Nine O'Clock News*, which regularly attracts an audience of 7.5 million. *Nationwide*'s audience has ranged between five and eight million according to the season.

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Welcoming smiles for the Queen Mother yesterday during a tour of the United Biscuits factory in Harlesden, north London. For part of the visit Sir Hector Laing, the company's chairman, drove her around in an electric buggy.

## Car casualties down after seat belt law

Deaths and serious injuries to front-seat occupants of cars and light vans fell by a quarter in the first two months after the compulsory seat belt law came into force, compared with the corresponding two months last year.

Figures released by the Department of Transport yesterday suggest that about a thousand people either owe their lives or lack of serious injuries to the three-year experimental regulations. The department intimated however, that results for the first few months should be treated with caution and that a trend may take time to emerge.

In the long term, the effects of the seat belt law will be assessed on at least two years' data. By then, the wearing rate - calculated at 95 per cent in February and March compared with 40 per cent a year earlier - should have stabilised and casualty rate fluctuations evoked out. Casualty figures for a single month are acknowledged as being affected by such factors as the weather, public holidays and road safety publicity.

Mr Tom King, The Secretary of State for Transport, said it was "surely no coincidence" that deaths and serious injuries to front-seat occupants were lower than a year ago. "Of course, it is too early to be sure but the figures are certainly encouraging," he said.

Mr King also welcomed reports from doctors that the number of serious head and facial injuries had dropped significantly.



Mr King: "Figures encouraging"

Road deaths in the first three months of this year were estimated at 1,100 and serious injuries at 15,100, a reduction of 10 per cent in both figures. That was in spite of a 12 per cent rise in total traffic during the year.

Significant increases, however, were recorded among some road users. Among pedal cyclists casualties were 13 per cent higher, moped riders 8 per cent, and pedestrians 1 per cent. Decreases were recorded among goods vehicle casualties (14 per cent down), motorcyclists (12 per cent), bus and coach passengers (8 per cent) and car occupants (7 per cent).

The figure for motorcyclists might have been affected by new regulations, also introduced in February, restricting learners to machines of 125cc capacity. In the two months, injuries to rear seat passengers remained unchanged.

## Rampton's head opts for leisure

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Dr Alfred Minto, whose unexpected resignation as medical director of Rampton special hospital was announced this week, told *The Times* yesterday that he wanted to be a "gentleman of leisure" and his reasons for retiring were "entirely selfish".

Dr Minto will retire in September at the age of 55, after two years in the job. He will be entitled to an index-linked pension of half his final salary of £35,000 plus a lump sum of about £50,000. He said yesterday that he had calculated what he could get out of his retirement.

Dr Minto said that it was important for newspapers that had not spoken to him to suggest that he was retiring early because of difficulties in persuading members of the Prison Officers' Association to change their working arrangements.

The shifts proposed would entail substantial cuts in wages, he said. What management had to do was raise the professional activity at the hospital to improve the lives of patients, and then to find ways of changing staff patterns.

Dr Minto was appointed to the new post of medical director after the Boynton committee examined allegations by Yorkshire Television of brutality by staff against patients. Since his appointment, several former members of staff have been convicted of assault.

## Woman lied about pools win

A pensioner was yesterday celebrating a football pool win the size of which his daughter-in-law concealed from him for seven years. A High Court judge ordered Mrs Catherine Hammond to pay £19,060 to Mr Charles Hammond, aged 81.

A Littlewoods coupon the two shared won a dividend in 1976, the court was told. But Mrs Hammond told her father-in-law the win was only £10,000 and gave him £5,000, his counsel, Mr Leonard Sieve, said.

It was only when Mrs Hammond divorced her husband and claimed maintenance that more details emerged.

Mrs Hammond claimed the win was £20,000, then dropped her maintenance proceedings rather than reveal more, counsel told Deputy Judge Sir Douglas Frank QC. Her husband, Mr Ronald Hammond, secured newspaper files to trace the dividend.

Mrs Hammond, of Greenford, Middlesex, did not appear in court to contest Mr Charles Hammond's claim for a full half share, with interest.

The judge went ahead with the case in her absence after refusing to accept her explanation in a letter that she was too "incapacitated" to attend.

The judge awarded Mr Hammond, of Wembley, north London, £11,960 - his share of the dividend, less the £5,000 Mrs Hammond had already given him, plus interest of £7,100.

## New church image 'wanted by two in five'

Almost two in five people feel the church needs to change its image if it is to attract people, according to a nationwide Gallup survey of attitudes to religion.

But, a third of those questioned who do not go to church say God is important in their lives, the Bible Society, which commissioned the survey, said. The survey showed that nearly half of the population thought it was good to get married in church.

The Rev Tom Houston, executive director of the society, said yesterday: "The church still has an important place in the minds of the general population - certainly as far as ritual services such as christenings, weddings and funerals, are concerned."

A total of 15 per cent of those questioned said they went to church once a week or more, but 56 per cent did not go to church or went only for weddings, funerals or christenings.

More people go to church in East Anglia - 28 per cent going once a month or more - with the South-east having the lowest church attendance, at 19 per cent.

Mr Houston said the reason for the survey was to provide evidence of the religious state of England before the visit of Luis Palau, an Argentine-born evangelist to London later this year and Billy Graham the American evangelist to the rest of the country in 1984. Argitudes to Bible, God and Church, Bible Society, 146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BX; (£3.50).

## Battle over the Bard

The long standing dispute among literary critics over who wrote Shakespeare's plays emerges again next week when scholars from throughout the world gather at Sheffield University.

It will be the first international conference of the Marlowe Society of America, which believes Christopher Marlowe, not Shakespeare, wrote the plays. The case for the Bard will be put by the Shakespeare Association.

## More firemen push costs up

The number of firemen in England and Wales is increasing and may soon reach the level of 1979, when Mrs Margaret Thatcher's first government started pressing for cuts in manpower to save money. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy reported the figures yesterday.

The cost of the fire service is expected to rise during 1983-84 by 10.6 per cent above the 1982-83 level, pushing the average cost of fire protection for every 1,000 people up to £11,049 a year.

## Angler finds stolen silver

Half the silverware stolen on Tuesday from the Durham Light Infantry museum in Durham was found in the Tyne near Prudhoe by an angler yesterday.

The police think the rest of the £3,000 haul may have been washed downstream because of the recent heavy rain. An underwater unit will search the riverbed when the weather improves.

## Single bliss

Miss Ellen May Boyall, who celebrated her 105th birthday in Kirklands Home, Kirby, Nottinghamshire, yesterday, explained her long life by saying: "Perhaps it is because I did not get married; I never had the desire to get married."

## Ice rink blaze

The police suspect arson after an ice rink and discotheque valued at £120,000 in Westward Ho! north Devon, were severely damaged by fire early yesterday. The complex, owned by Mr Joseph Need, opened 10 days ago after local objections.

## Pensioners disarmed gun raider

Two pensioners who tackled and disarmed a man who tried to rob their shop were awarded £100 each by a judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday "for their exemplary courage".

When Mr David Daniel, aged 79, and his sister Elizabeth, aged 78, said they would like to give the money to police charities, their generosity "delighted" the recorder, Miss Jean Southworth, QC.

Mr Daniel, a widower, and his sister, a spinster, have run a general store in Moreton, Terrace, Westminster, for 52 years. The recorder told them: "If more people like you stood up to those who try and rob them, maybe there would be a lot fewer cowardly robbers about."

Mr Daniel, who lives with his sister above the shop, told the court two young men came in and bought chocolate bars. One of them "pointed a gun in my face and demanded the cash from the till, about £300". Mr Daniel said. I rushed round the counter and grabbed a broom and tried to knock the gun out of his hand. I got hold of the gun and started to struggle with the man. We ended up in the street."

Mr Daniel was joined by his sister, who had been having a cup of tea when the hold-up began, and she also armed herself with a broom. "My brother told me to get back inside but I could not let him go alone. I hit the man with the gun a couple of times across the shoulders with the broom", she said.

Christopher Baker, aged 20, unemployed and of no fixed address, admitted attempted robbery and possessing an imitation pistol. He was remanded in custody for sentence next week.

## Bradley inquest

The resumed inquest on Caroline Bradley, aged 37, international show jumper who died after competing in the Suffolk Show, will be held at Ipswich Crown Court next Tuesday.

## Gang jailed for £1m forgeries

Almost £1m in counterfeit banknotes rolled off the presses of an east London printers in less than 10 hours, Inner London Crown Court heard yesterday. What the counterfeit gang did not know was that for six months undercover officers had been watching their elaborate preparations. The policemen, from Scotland Yard's stolen vehicles squad, uncovered the plot while investigating other matters, the court heard.

Six men arrested after the raid were jailed for a total of 21 years after being convicted, or admitting their various roles in the scheme.

John Harris, aged 38, of Aberdeen Park, Highbury, north London, was jailed for five years after admitting possession of the forged notes in March last year. Andrew Gossling, aged 34, of Park Lane, Hornchurch, Essex, was jailed for five years for possessing counterfeit notes. Keith Coombes, aged 35, of Nelson Walk, Sittingbourne, Kent, was jailed for four years for the same offence.

John Barber, aged 32, of Fairview, Canvey Island, Essex, and Steven Weller, aged 29, of Broomfield Road, Canvey Island, were jailed for three years.

Tony Barber, aged 33, of Valence Wood Road, Epsingham, Essex, brother of John Barber, was jailed for 18 months. The three, admitted making the forged currency with intent that it be passed as genuine.

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Sue Lawley: End of "a lovely job"

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## Police step up hunt for girl's killer

A new initiative was launched yesterday in the hunt for the killer of Susan Maxwell, a schoolgirl aged 11, from Cornhill on Tweed, whose body was dumped 250 miles away near Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, a year ago.

Senior officers from Staffordshire, Northumbria, and Lutonia police have met after the inquest into her death this week. A police spokesman at Stafford said yesterday: "Detectives from all three forces will be carrying out particular tasks in the Uttoxeter and Coldstream areas in the last week of July."

More than 11,000 statements have been obtained, about 18,000 owners of Triumph cars have been interviewed, and 70 police officers are still involved in the hunt for the girl's killer after a witness told the inquest that he saw a maroon-coloured car with a girl like Susan inside shouting excitedly and brandishing a tennis racket with both hands as though she had lost her temper.

Fifteen "peeping Toms" have come forward after the police appeal for witnesses in the murder hunt for the killer of Miss Susan Rahman, aged 21, at Castleton in Derbyshire.

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## Remand on charge of seizing boy

A man accused of snatching Colin Jackson, aged 11, from his school in Stillington, Cleveland, was remanded in custody for a week by Teesside magistrates yesterday.

Sergeant Harry Simpson, told the court that Roy Williams, a bachelor, aged 23, seized the boy a month after taking him to Scotland. The magistrates heard that Mr Williams, unemployed, of Caudwell Close, Stockton-on-Tees was found with the boy at a flat in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr Williams appeared on a child-stealing charge with Mrs Christine George, a neighbour and Stephen Dyball of Crimdon Walk, Stockton. Mr Williams was also accused of possessing an offensive weapon. The others were released on bail.

## Lord Amptill cleared of drink driving charge

Lord Amptill, aged 61, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, was cleared yesterday of being in charge of a car with excess alcohol in his bloodstream.

Mr Terence Maher, the Bow Street Magistrate, said that although a breath test proved positive, there was evidence to show that Lord Amptill did not intend driving his car again on the evening of his arrest. Mr David Gates had said for the prosecution: "He was arrested in Curzon Street on June 14 after he had parked his car badly while picking up his wife from a restaurant."

But Lord Amptill had no intention of driving the car again that evening. Mr David Croft, QC, said for the defence. "He agreed that he had parked the car badly and told police he had been 'naughty'". He had had a drink in the restaurant, and handed the keys to police saying his intention was that his wife should drive them home.

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## Voluntary test scheme for deer-stalkers

By Hugh Clayton



## PARLIAMENT July 7 1983

## Spending curbs needed to avoid higher interest rates

## THE ECONOMY

The Government was determined to ensure that unplanned overspending did not divert it from its course and put recovery at risk, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared in the Commons in a statement outlining savings and other measures having an overall effect designed to reduce this year's likely public expenditure outturn by more than £1,000m.

He explained that the measures did not imply any reductions in the total, as published in the February White Paper, rather they were designed to bring spending closer to the course laid down in his predecessor's White Paper.

Amid Labour interruptions and protests, Mr Lawson said that cash limits for the current year would be reduced by 1 per cent in respect of pay and central government administrative expenditure and by 2 per cent for the remainder. The new cash limit figures would be announced as soon as possible.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury matters, labelled the statement "astonishing" and said that whatever it might do for the Chancellor's reputation as an axe man, Mr Lawson had at a stroke destroyed the credibility and integrity of the Prime Minister, his predecessor (Sir Geoffrey Howe) and his colleagues. A disgraceful fraud and swindle had been perpetrated.

Mr Lawson said it was clear that public expenditure was running at a significantly higher level than was consistent with the 1983-84 plan, a total of £119.6 billion.

announced in the Public Expenditure White Paper presented by the Chancellor on February 1.

Some adjustment is clearly needed (he warned), and I have therefore decided that immediate action must be taken to bring about savings that will bring total public expenditure closer to the planned path. It is both more efficient in terms of departmental management of programmes, and more effective, to take this action straightaway.

After referring to the cash limit reductions, Mr Lawson said the total provision for the external financing limits of the nationalised industries would similarly be reduced by 2 per cent. This reduction would be allocated in proportion to their turnover.

The effect of these measures (he said) will be to remove at least £500m of overspending beyond the planned spending total. In addition, the programme of asset sales during the current year will be increased by a further £500m.

Finally, I am also taking the opportunity to introduce some improvements in expenditure control. In particular, a scheme of end-year cash limits flexibility will be introduced. This will permit us to carry forward of underspend on central Government capital programmes.

Such change has of course long been advocated by departments, but the Government has been reluctant to do so, with the expenditure stretching over a number of years.

The change, I believe is fully justified on managerial grounds but also on the grounds that it will reduce the end-year surge, reduce expenditure in the current year by some £100m; the effects in future years will be taken into account in the forthcoming public expenditure survey. I am satisfied that parliamentary control of expenditure will not be diminished.

I told the House on June 29 that, in order to maintain the right balance between public borrowing and interest rates, we intended to maintain firm control of public expenditure.

It is plain, four weeks later (he went on) that a disgraceful fraud and swindle has been perpetrated. Does he recall his own statement on Channel 4 television that a review of public expenditure was about to start?

Since it has taken the Chancellor exactly four weeks to produce and announce these measures involving £500m of cuts, and £500m in forced sale of public assets, what new factors have emerged this week to justify cuts which were not there a week ago or, for that matter, four weeks ago before the general election?

The only possible excuse for this political cynicism is his obsession with money supply and grovelling subservience to City opinion.

It is unthinkable, not only to the Labour Party but to the British people, that he should continue now with the Finance Bill proposals to give away £400m for the benefit of the rich while they continue to allow overseas while there are cuts in services to 95 per cent of people, including the disadvantaged and the poor.

The Chancellor should withdraw the Finance Bill measures he and the Prime Minister make an unreserved apology to the British people.

Mr Lawson: I understand Mr Shore's desire to make a good impression on his colleagues in the leadership stakes, but it would have assisted the House more if his comments had borne more relation to my statement.

Mr Shore said that only four weeks ago on June 5, when asked point blank whether it was intended to cut public expenditure, the Prime Minister said: "We have laid out our plans for the next three years on Government spending. It is there

for everyone to see and discuss and I would have more discussion would concentrate on the interest of scores and the leaked documents which we have."

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controlling expenditure in a real sense, what price a ruling but a slack method of control when the rate of inflation is falling rapidly as it is now. Will he consider some basic change in the system rather than the ad hoc measures of the kind he has introduced?"

Mr Lawson: I will consider what he has said. Inflation has been rising rather more slowly than we had expected.

Mr John Morris (Aberdeen, Lab): It is a remarkable coincidence that this great truth should be revealed exactly four weeks after the election. In the commercial world people are put behind bars for issuing false prospectuses.

Mr Lawson: I would have thought that more businessmen got to be behind bars for not sticking to their budgets.

The alternative of allowing this overspending to remain unchecked (he added later) would be higher interest rates.

Mr Norman Ashkenazi (Tottenham, Lab) said that even in terms of Thatcherite morality, the butchering of 50,000 jobs for the sake of a minimal effect on interest rates could not be justified.

Mr Matthew Parris (Derbyshire, West, Con) leapt to his feet, more than the difference between a good winter and a bad winter, why all the fuss for so small a price?

Mr Lawson: That is a fair point but I would not consider the reduction of £1,000m in an overspend as insignificant.

Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk, East, Lab) said that in view of the bad economic news from the building societies and petrol companies, and the Prime Minister saying during

the election that there was no bad economic news, it was a little surprising that Mr Lawson could not blame the Tories for thinking the Tory Party, led by the Prime Minister, had cheated them during the election.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, Con) asked Mr Lawson: Which new public assets does he intend to sell to make up the £500m, over and above those already on the list?

Mr Lawson: He will be informed when the time is right. He would not wish me to reveal what might be market-sensitive information in a clumsy way.

Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, Con) asked Mr Lawson: Why is it in this year of the fiscal year that public spending is running so much higher than the planned total? What action will be taken to ensure that such a wide discrepancy does not occur in future?

Is there not a problem of public spending monitoring control? Mr Lawson: I have mentioned one innovation which I hope will help. I hope to agree with my ministerial colleagues a better system of information flows.

Mr Michael Forman (Cardiff and Wellingborough, Con) asked Mr Lawson: Does his decision reveal an underlying doctrine that whenever and wherever demand-driven public spending rises, discretionary public expenditure will have to be reduced further?

Mr Lawson: There is no automatic formula. It is a matter of judgment.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dumfriesshire, West, Lab): This is a clear indication of Government economic mismanagement which was well known to the Government before the election. Is he asking the House to accept the view that he is going to raise £500m from the

market and does not know which assets to sell to do so?

Mr Lawson: That was not precisely what I said. Inflation is rising more slowly, prices are rising more slowly than we had earlier expected, and the recovery is going ahead at a little but quicker than was expected at the time of the Budget. So the economy is on course.

The purpose of this adjustment of public spending on the borrowing requirement is to keep it on course. It is by keeping it on course that the best prospect for jobs arises.

Mr Derek Foster (Bishop Auckland, Lab): This is a desperate attempt to avoid putting up interest rates which the logic of his own policies implies. If that happens it will cut off his thin and patchy recovery.

Mr Lawson: I have no wish to see interest rates rise unnecessarily. This is not a desperate attempt. It is merely a prudent measure to bring public expenditure closer to the figures published and approved.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab): On what date did he first become aware that he would have to take the steps he has just announced?

Mr Lawson: There is a continual flow of information in the course of the financial year. It comes week by week, almost day by day. Eventually a picture emerges. When that picture emerges, I thought it time action had to be taken.

Mr Lawson said later that despite the reduction in the cash limits he had announced, defence expenditure this year would still be three per cent in real terms higher than in the previous year. There was no reduction in total expenditure in the health service below the total figure in the public expenditure White Paper.

## Government will help draft hanging Bill

## PM's QUESTIONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said that if the Commons voted next week to restore capital punishment, she expected the Bill to be introduced by a private member.

The Government would help with the drafting and would provide time for the Bill to be introduced and debated during the current session.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House of Commons, announced that the debate on restoration of the death penalty would be next Wednesday.

Mr David Wintick (Walsall North, Lab) said during questions to the Prime Minister: Restoring capital punishment for terrorism would not in any way deter terrorism in Northern Ireland.

Mrs Thatcher: As we are likely to have this matter debated next week, it seems to me that debate in the appropriate place to put that argument.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib) asked: Were there to be a vote in favour of a return to capital punishment for any category of murder next week, is the Government's position that there will be an early Government Bill on which Cabinet ministers would vote?

Mrs Thatcher: On that matter, there has always been a free vote. If there were to be a Bill introduced consequent upon a vote to restore capital punishment, I would expect it to be by a private member.

I would expect the Government to assist to provide all possible drafting assistance to that MP because I would consider that to be in accordance with the wishes of the House. I would expect the Government to provide time for that Bill to be introduced and debated during the current session.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): Although I think the Prime Minister is quite right to suggest we should suspend judgement on capital punishment until the debate on Wednesday, as her opinion is important to the few waverers behind her, when she is making up her mind will she bear in mind the experience of my constituent John Brown who served eight years in jail for murder and was then released because it was found he was convicted on crooked forensic evidence. He would have been hanged if we had capital punishment (Labouchere).

Mrs Thatcher: We shall make up our own minds on how to vote. Capital punishment is a punishment that is available, even if it was passed by the House, not as it was in previous days when it was the only punishment available. There is a very great difference and after the debate, we shall know whether the matter will be taken further or not.

## Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Proceedings on International Monetary Arrangements Bill and on Companies (Beneficial Interests) Bill. Greater London Council (Money) Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Finance Bill, committee. Wednesday: Debate on the death penalty.

Thursday: Finance Bill, remaining stages.

Friday: Private member's motion.

## University vouchers under study

Civil servants at the Department of Education and Science are preparing a paper on the feasibility of vouchers for students in higher education at the request of Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Sir Keith dropped the idea of a voucher scheme for schools in the House of Commons this week but he has agreed in response to pressure from certain university members of the House of Commons to examine vouchers for students.

Under such a scheme students would be given a voucher to cover all or part of the cost of their degree course, assuming that full-cost fees were charged instead of the present nominal £480 a year.

Vouchers in higher education would be much easier to administer than in schools where Sir Keith admitted they would run into "great difficulties".

The idea for a paper on student vouchers came out of Sir Keith's meeting with vice-chancellors at which ways of funding universities were discussed. The arguments for vouchers is that students thereby get some idea of what their higher education is costing and that by "shopping around" for a course on which to "spend" their money they can affect what is on offer.

However, if students were to be given vouchers for the whole of the cost of their course, the system would not change much except that universities would be able to take as many students as they wanted.

A more interesting option, and one which the paper is likely to consider, is where the voucher covers only part of the cost of a course. That raises the spectre of loans for students.

The voucher idea for students is at an early stage and there is some doubt about Sir Keith's commitment to it. It is believed he favours the idea of allowing a small number of universities to go it alone with direct grants from his department but with the ability to set fees, grants and student numbers.

It is not thought possible to have a voucher experiment for a limited number of universities because of the monopolistic nature of the system. A voucher scheme is not thought likely to affect the viability of institutions because when demand falls in the mid-1990s by about 20 per cent, in line with declining numbers in the population, institutions are going to have to close anyway.

Some universities might wish to expand in response to demand but it is likely that the most sought-after institutions will want to stay as they are because of the correlation between elitism and numbers.

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## Enormous assets being created for Britain

## TREASURY

Opposition MPs criticized the amount of British money going abroad and called for the reintroduction of sensible exchange controls after Mr John Moore, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons that the net identified private and other capital investment abroad in the year to 1983, quarter 1, totalled £2,400m.

One beneficial result (he said) has been an increase in income from assets abroad and a marked improvement in the balance between overseas assets and liabilities. Because of the uncertainties involved, it is not the practice to publish detailed forecasts of the capital account.

Ms Harriet Harman (Peckham, Lab) said this flood of British money abroad was a major factor contributing to the collapse of investment in British industry. The Government, in allowing this flood of money, was responsible to job losses in British industry which result from this collapse.

Mr Moore: She is confused. The actual percentage of institutional funds which went into UK company securities (he said) is a little different than in 1978.

There has been an enormous success story for Britain since freedom from exchange controls and the creation of overseas assets which will be useful for our children and grandchildren.

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham North East, Lab): It is frightening and damaging to our national interest when the UK industry has reduced by one third compared with 1979, that we have this massive hemorrhage of investment overseas. It helps our overseas competitors the better to compete against us.

The "abolition of exchange controls did not mean a once-and-for-all increase in this hemorrhage. It increases every year. The Government should examine this from a view to exercising some control.

Mr Moore: The abolition of exchange controls has created for pensioners and pensioners' investment institutions enormous opportunities for them to create assets overseas which will be of long-term benefit to this country.

Mr Iver Stanbrook (Orpington, Con) said the Committee on Invisible Investment, set up by the Government in 1981 was nearly £3,500m, showing the advantage to Britain of exchange control abolition.

Mr Moore: That is right. Not only does it show we have net short term investment overseas, it also shows that we have net long term investment overseas. From £8,500m in assets overseas in 1978, Britain, because of the abolition of exchange controls, has £37,500m of investment assets overseas.

Labour, wishing to get more jobs (he added) will appreciate that in the next three years there has been £12,000m inward investment in the UK to help job creation here.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: As this year we have no balance of payments surplus on current account, it is time the Government changed its strategy on the unbridled export of capital and reintroduced sensible exchange controls.

Mr Moore: He ignores the British success story and the economic evidence. Intelligence use of our assets in the last four years has cut our total overseas debts from £23,000m to £12,000m.

including renovation of Wigan Pier. They demonstrated the variety of ways in which urban regeneration could be achieved and how public money could often be used to greater effect in the inner cities attracting much larger amounts of private investment.

They demonstrated the commitment of central and local government but of the interest of the private sector to the slow but essential lack of restoring hope to areas where the properties might often look hopeless.

Dr David Clark, an Opposition spokesman on urban regeneration (South Shields, Lab), said the Bill showed that public money could create jobs and improve the environment and for that reason the Opposition was in support of it.

Mr William Mitchell (Sheffield, Huddersfield, Lab) said that taking away too much of local government's freedom and applying too much control removed a safety valve crucial in democracy. The Bill was read a second time and passed its remaining stages.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on youth training scheme.

House of Lords (2.30): Debate on the Cable Television Bill.

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## Wigan pier grant for renovation

one to encourage improvement of many sites in the inner cities.

The authorities concerned in the further batch of 14 projects given approval were: Birmingham, Bradford, Dudley, the GLC, the Greater Manchester Council, Greenwich.

Walgrave: Investment totals £216m so far

Hackney, Knowsley, Lambeth, Liverpool, Wandsworth, Wigan and Wolverhampton.

The projects covered commercial and industrial projects, housing projects and leisure schemes.

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## US steel import restrictions condemned

The House of Commons today condemned the unilateral US steel import restrictions.

Mr Neil Thomas (Oxford South, Con) said: The unilateral US steel import restrictions are a disgraceful and unilateral action on the part of the United States, especially coming so soon after the signing of the GATT agreement.

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## Lawyer's son found guilty of murder in trial that gripped Spanish society

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

The son of a Spanish lawyer was yesterday found guilty, at the end of a sensational trial, of murdering his millionaire, aristocratic parents-in-law. Rafael Escobedo Alday, aged 29, was sentenced to a total of 53 years' imprisonment for shooting dead the Marquis and Marchioness of Urquijo in the Madrid suburb of Somosierra in August 1980. He was ordered to pay 20m pesetas (about £90,000) to his estranged wife, Miryam de la Sierra Urquijo, and her brother Juan, the present marquis.



Rafael Escobedo: Shot his aristocratic in-laws.



Miryam Urquijo: Their marriage broke up.

Scanty evidence against Escobedo and the disappearance of vital ballistic evidence from judicial custody sparked wide interest in the trial, which started on June 21.

The judgment said Escobedo felt ostracized by the murdered couple and blamed their disapproval for the break-up of his marriage.

This was one of the reasons for the murder, the judgment said, adding that there were probably others which had not come to light.

Escobedo was arrested in April 1981 after police recovered, at his country house, 265 pistol cartridges which allegedly tallied with four found near the bodies. These cartridges were stolen from the court just before the start of

the trial. The murder weapon was never found.

Escobedo confessed to the murder soon after his arrest, but later retracted, saying he made the confession to stop harassment of his family.

His lawyer said Escobedo, who has been in custody since his arrest, was the victim of a police plot to pressure him into a confession. Court officials said he would not serve more than 30 years of his sentence.

The trial attracted large crowds at the Madrid Palace of Justice, despite the summer heat, because the public was fascinated not only by an Agatha Christie thriller-like look at the inner workings of one of Spain's best known aristocratic families and former owners of the country's most exclusive banks, but also by disclosures at the trial itself.

Members of the public were delighted by descriptions of the world of major-domos and faithful estate managers, and the spicy overtones, such as an American, suspected by Spaniards following the trial, of being a secret agent and lover of Escobedo's estranged wife.

It was also learnt that the late Marquis, as an active member of Opus Dei, intended to leave some of his money to the right-wing Roman Catholic lay organization.

## Youde gives little away after visit to Britain

By Henry Stanhope  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and China had achieved a better understanding of each other's positions on Hongkong, Sir Edward Youde, the Governor, said on his return to the British colony yesterday.

But Sir Edward, who had just spent two days in consultations with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other ministers and officials in Whitehall, refused to comment further on the Anglo-Chinese negotiations on Hongkong which resume in Peking next week.

He will be attending these for the first time since they began last September, although Britain will continue to be represented by Sir Percy Cradock, ambassador in Peking. The British and Chinese Governments are seeking agreement over the sovereignty and administration of the colony after the expiry of Britain's lease on the New Territories in 1997.

Nor was there any comment in Whitehall on the report in *Asia Week* magazine that China had promised to find room for a capitalist Hongkong within its communist republic by rewriting part of its own Constitution.

There has been speculation on a compromise of this kind that might enable China to resume sovereignty over Hongkong without silence, describing the *Asia Week* report as the latest in a long line of speculative articles in the press.



Birthday delight: Mrs Nancy Reagan, 60 on Wednesday, admires a cake presented by her White House staff.

## Kohl goes home well satisfied with his Soviet contact

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

Chancellor Helmut Kohl flew home from Kiev yesterday afternoon, leaving a critical Soviet press to express the irritation of his hosts with his firm stand on medium-range missiles and forthright remarks about German reunification.

While in Kiev Dr Kohl held talks with Mr Vladimir Shcherbitsky, the Ukrainian party leader, and visited the city's famous monastery. He said he was fully satisfied with his four-day visit here, during which he went out of his way to pay tribute to the intellectual ability of Mr Yuri Andropov, despite his health problems.

*Pravda* yesterday criticized Dr Kohl for his frequent references to "Germany" and "the Germans", reminding him that since the end of the war there have been two German states.

Despite the political differences, Dr Kohl's amiable manner appears to have made a good impression on the Russians and figures published on Wednesday show that in the vital area of trade, the two countries have closer links than ever.

● REYKJAVIK: It was up to the Soviet Union to come forward with a new proposal to end the deadlock at the Geneva arms reduction talks. Vice-President George Bush said here yesterday (AP reports).

Speaking at a news conference on the final day of an eight-nation tour of Western Europe, he said: "President Reagan is willing to negotiate and people in (Western) Europe have come to know that our way, President Reagan's way, is the way of peace and arms reduction. Reagan wants peace."

## Security accord in sight

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Diplomats from both East and West attending the European security review conference were yesterday privately expressing hopes that agreement could be announced today on a final document to conclude the more than two-and-a-half-year long gathering.

Amid much to-ing and fro-ing of texts for a chairman's statement to accompany the document, the Soviet Union was said to have agreed on all the points in a compromise

package proposed by Spain last month to save the conference. Several Western delegates hope the chief US delegate will bring final approval with him from Washington today.

Among the final points being tackled was the wording taken from the 1975 Helsinki Final Act on détente. This will accompany the chairman's closing statement on, among other things, an experts' meeting on human contacts in Switzerland in 1986.

## New York justice 'almost nil'

### The judge who lets criminals go free

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The overworked New York judge looked at his long list of cases and decided on drastic action. He called a dozen defendants before him and told them: "Your cases are dismissed." Scott-free and scarcely able to believe their luck, they left the court.

Later that day the judge did the same thing with another batch of defendants. "I have too many cases and this is one way of dealing with them," he said. "People leave my court knowing they have got away with it."

The desperate way in which some judges try to cope with their sisyphus task is symptomatic of the crisis in New York's lower courts. A ramshackle and overloaded conveyor-belt of cases is breaking down.

Judges and officials working in dirty and overcrowded courts are overwhelmed by the torrent of cases. A senior judge said that the quality of justice "is almost nil".

With justices handling more than 100 cases a day each, the system keeps going only because most are dismissed or settled by plea bargaining, with defendants getting lighter sentences in return for saving the courts time and money. There is so much plea bargaining and dismissal that only one case in 200 goes to trial.

Some people who feel themselves innocent of charges plead guilty simply to get out of the time-consuming congestion.

People scoff at the courts' inefficiencies. Three-quarters of all summonses remain unanswered and there is a backlog of 3.7 million of them. A clerk said: "But if everyone showed up we would be in a mess."

The lower courts, the equivalent of magistrates' courts in Britain are "an institution in the throes of collapse," says *The New York Times*, which has made a thorough investigation.

"Rarely has any public institution been held in such open contempt by those who work in it and those who pass through it. It functions only to the extent that it sacrifices justice to expediency." A judge remarked that the lower courts work "like old-time frontier justice".

The crisis stems partly from New York's financial troubles in the 1970s and the decision to switch more money and resources to tackling serious crimes, and to the higher courts.

The *New York Times* comments: "As the lower court sinks, it hauls down the credibility of the entire system."

The city Bar Association has criticized large-scale dismissals as a way of clearing judges' lists, saying: "These judicial excesses contribute to a sense of lawlessness (but) they reflect judicial frustration over a vastly overburdened system."

The difficulties of the lower courts are making clear to New Yorkers that there are no easy answers to the problems of crime and punishment in their city. Politicians make strong speeches on law and order, but the judicial system does not have the resources to cope. The police need to appear tough and to make numerous arrests, but many criminals know they will get off lightly.

"The prisons are already full," a judge said. "If the system were more efficient what would we do with all these people?"

## Another veto by generals in Turkey

Ankara (AP) - Turkey's ruling generals yesterday demonstrated once again their determination to keep strict control over political developments by vetoing most of the founding members of a new conservative party.

The five-member National Security Council crossed out the names of 30 of the 34 people who set up the Righteous Road Party two weeks ago. The council is empowered by new political party and election laws to pass judgment on founding members of the parties and their lists of candidates for Parliament in general elections in November.

The conservative party was reportedly formed by sympathizers of the disbanded Justice Party of Mr Suleyman Demirel, the former Prime Minister.

So far only three parties have been cleared to start organizing branches throughout the country. They are the conservative National Democracy Party of retired General Turgut Sunalp, the free-market-oriented Motherland Party of Mr Turgut Ozal and the Social Democrat Populist Party of Mr Necdet Culp, a former provincial governor. Mr Sunalp's party enjoys the obvious support of the generals.

On Wednesday, the council laid down "rules of behaviour". A council announcement said the parties could publish booklets and magazines to explain their programmes, advertise in newspapers for the same purpose and hold ceremonies for branch openings after getting permission from military authorities.

## Executives of Rumasa go for trial

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid

An investigating magistrate ordered Senior José Maria Ruiz Mateos, the expropriated owner of Rumasa, Spain's biggest private building company before its recent nationalization, to stand trial in Madrid on four charges relating to his administration of the company.

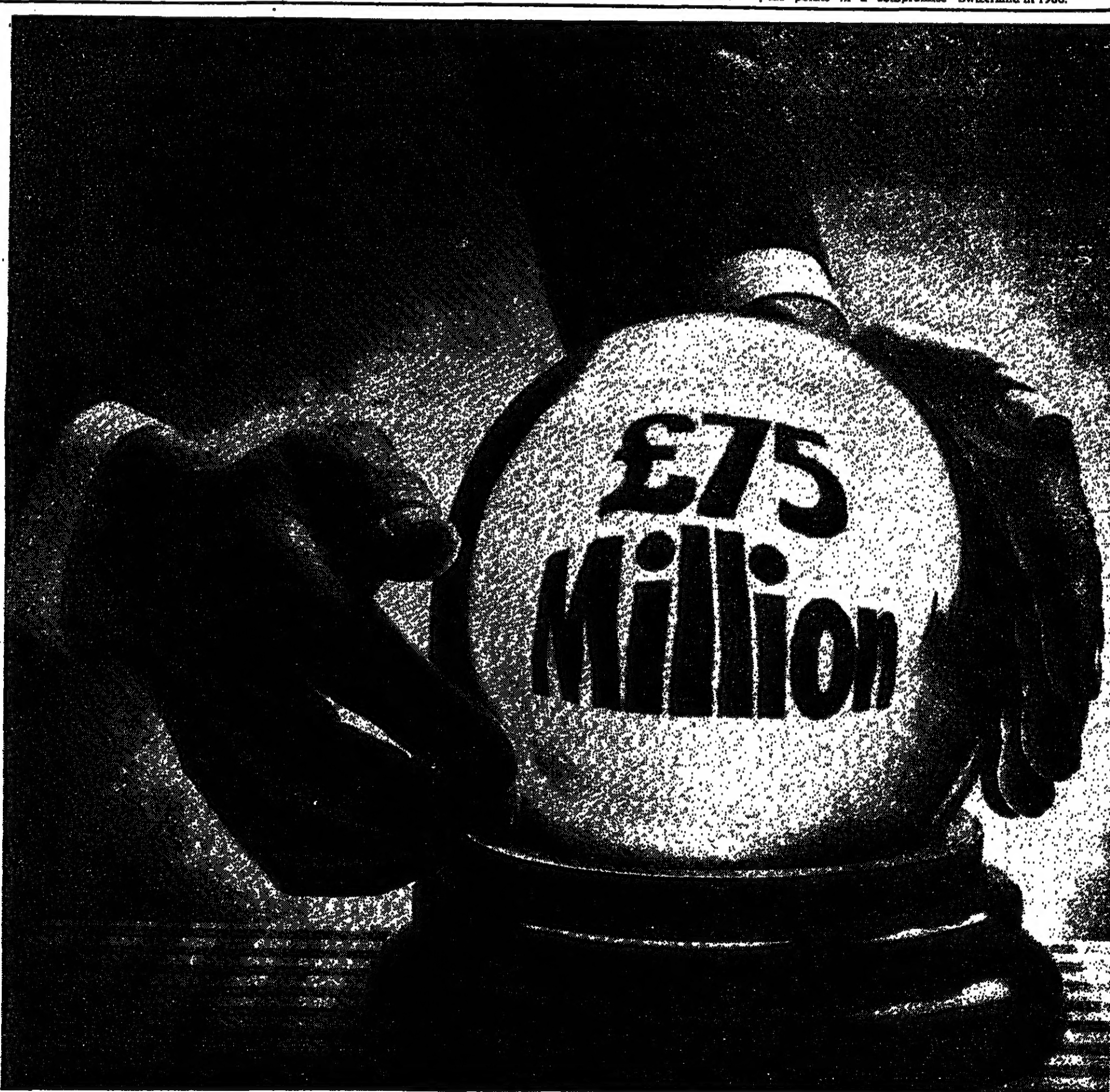
He was also ordered to put up 100 million pesetas (£470m) to cover his possible responsibilities, a Justice Ministry official confirmed here yesterday.

Senior Ruiz Mateos, who is 52 and now in London, is charged with violation of currency regulations, accounting fraud, withholding social security funds and embezzlement of taxes.

The charges were based on accusations made by a government-appointed prosecutor in April and May after the confiscation of his huge business empire by decree last February. The decree was subsequently ratified by Parliament, in which the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party has an absolute majority.

Also charged in the same case were two former Rumasa executives, José Diaz Hidalgo, who is believed to be in London, and Carlos Quintas Alvarez. Senior Diaz Hidalgo was also ordered to put up bonds of 100 billion pesetas on top of bail of 10m pesetas.

The formal charges opened the way for the Spanish Government to seek the extradition of the business tycoon, even though there is no formal extradition treaty between Spain and Britain.



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6.9p from 4.3p (adjusted) and the interim dividend is up 20% to 2p.

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# Iranian hijackers surrender in Paris after plea by exiled Mujahedin leader

Six Iranian hijackers, who threatened to blow up an Iran Air Boeing 747 with nearly 200 passengers on board at Orly airport, gave themselves up to French police yesterday afternoon and were found to have no explosives and to possess only two revolvers between them.

As soon as the aircraft had arrived it was surrounded by police and sharpshooters from the elite GIGN, the French equivalent of the British SAS. But the hijackers, claiming to have 5.5lb of TNT explosives, submachine guns and pistols, threatened to blow it up unless the police withdrew.

The aircraft carrying 300 passengers was hijacked on an internal flight between Tehran and Shiraz on Wednesday. After touching down at Orly, where 186 people, mostly women and children, were released, it took off again and headed for Europe.

France refused to permit either to fly over French airspace or to land. But after circling over Switzerland all night, the hijackers ordered the pilot to fly to Paris, where the aircraft touched down at Orly at 6.40 GMT yesterday morning with nearly 200 passengers still on board and 18 crew.

The hijackers claimed to belong to the left-wing Mujahedin-Khalq, the main opposition movement in Iran, whose leader, Mr. Massoud Rajavi, took refuge in France two years ago together with Mr. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the former Iranian Prime Minister who was deposed by Ayatollah Khomeini.

From Diana Geddes, Paris

However, Mr. Rajavi, who was contacted by the French authorities after the hijackers demanded to speak to him, denied that they were members of the Mujahedin, saying that if they were, they would not have come to France as that would only increase the Iranian Government's pressure on France — a country which had granted him exile.

After talking to Mr. Rajavi, who arrived at the airport in a police helicopter soon after 2pm GMT, the hijackers themselves changed their story and said that they had carried out their action "off their own bat" in order "that the world should learn about the crimes of Khomeini. We are Iranian patriots opposed to the Ayatollah Khomeini's regime."



Giving up: A hijacker at a cockpit window

Just before 3pm, after more than eight hours in intense heat on the airport runway, the remaining 179 passengers were released by the hijackers in return for the granting of their request to speak to Mr. Rajavi. They looked tired, but otherwise in good health.

Earlier, five people, including one of the co-pilots, had been taken off by ambulance for first aid treatment at the airport medical centre after being taken ill. They included a young Iranian soldier who appeared badly shocked and delirious, and a fighting in the war.

The co-pilot later returned to the aircraft and remained on board with the other 17 crew while negotiations continued by radio from the airport control tower between Mr. Rajavi and the hijackers. It was Mr. Rajavi who persuaded the six men to give themselves up to the GIGN sharpshooters who had stayed on the runway, hidden behind sand sheds and barriers, a few hundred yards from the aircraft.

M. Max Gallo, the government spokesman, said last night that the hijackers would be prosecuted for infringement of international law, even if it was decided to grant them political asylum in France. He hastened to add that he was speaking hypothetically.

The Iranian Embassy in Paris expressed its relief that no blood had been spilt, but protested that Mr. Rajavi, who was regarded as a terrorist by the Iranian Government, should have been elevated to the moral status of mediator.

## Appeal by locked-out staff of Rome paper

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The editor and 17 members of the staff of Rome's principal English-language newspaper, the *Daily American*, will launch an appeal today to the press to support them in their efforts for reinstatement. They say that the newspaper's main shareholder, Mr. Robert Cunningham, has locked them out.

Mr. Christopher Winner, the dismissed editor, maintains that he regards himself as still legally filling the chair even if physically he is not permitted to do so. He maintains that Mr. Cunningham has now made himself editor in an illegal move.

Mr. Winner says that the 15 American and two Canadian employees are owed three weeks' backpay. His editorial

writing has been under criticism, he says, by officials of the Republican Party in the US on the ground that it attacked some of President Reagan's policies.

Mr. Cunningham is said to have ambitions to run for the Senate and meanwhile to return to the United States and take a post with the Republican national committee.

Mr. Winner says that over the past few months financial difficulties have led to discussions about reducing staff though both circulation and advertising were rising. He also gave an undertaking to curb his criticisms of the President for a time because he wanted, he says, to save the newspaper.

## Storm over Coloured TV reader

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The appearance of the first Coloured announcer on South African television's Afrikaans service provoked an angry reaction from some viewers who believe it should be for whites only.

Mr. Vivian Solomons made his debut immediately after the eight o'clock news on Wednesday night as a continuity announcer. Since then the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has received about 75 telephone calls, of which about 60 were unfavourable.

Mr. Eric van der Merwe, a public relations officer for SABC, made the point, however, that this was quite a small number of objections, given a peak-hour viewing audience of more than three million. "I think they represent far right opinion."

South Africa has two television channels. The oldest, TV 1, which started only in the mid-1970s, has an English and Afrikaans service. Up to 8pm the programmes are all in one language; after 8pm they switch to the other. The order changing each day.

## Njonjo is suspended by Kanu

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The governing council of the Kenya African National Union (KANU), Kenya's sole political party, yesterday suspended the membership of Mr. Charles Njonjo, the former Minister for Constitutional Affairs, who was recently suspended from his post after a political controversy.

President Moi chaired yesterday's meeting. He has already ordered a judicial inquiry, headed by Mr. Justice Miller, a Guyanese judge of the Kenya High Court, to investigate allegations that Mr. Njonjo was being groomed by an unnamed foreign power to become President of Kenya.

After repeatedly denying that he had ever been disloyal to President Moi or had aspired to become president, Mr. Njonjo resigned his parliamentary seat last week. Chief Richard Lituya, a former MP who was said to have sent a telegram to Mr. Njonjo supporting him against his detractors.

A statement after the meeting said the governing council had emphasized the importance of discipline within the party.

## Sex enters French spy scandal

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

Parisian society is intrigued by the extraordinary affair of the French diplomat spy and the Chinese opera singer.

First the spy scandal broke when Mr. Bernard Boursicot, the diplomat, was arrested on Tuesday and charged with passing secrets to Peking. New spies have been added to the plot with yesterday's arrest of Shi Pei Pu, the singer with whom he lived in Paris. What baffled the police is that they do not know what sex the singer is.

The authorities have ordered a medical examination to determine Shi Pei Pu's sex and charged him or her with complicity in spying.

The singer, who works with the Peking Opera, claims to be a woman but is registered as a man. Mr. Boursicot is believed to have met Shi Pei Pu during the time he worked as a junior official in the French Embassy in Peking in the 1960s and early 1970s.

He is alleged to have passed secrets to a Chinese intelligence agent by the name of Kang between 1969 and 1972 concerning the Soviet Union, Hungary, India, the United States and France.

## Soweto black died with bullet in forehead

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The young black who died in a police station in Soweto, the black township southwest of Johannesburg, on Tuesday was shot at point blank range in the forehead, according to informed sources.

A post mortem examination on Paris Malatji, aged 24, was carried out yesterday morning at a government mortuary in Soweto but the results have not yet been officially released.

The police have admitted that Mr. Malatji "died from a bullet wound" while being held for questioning, but have refused to give any other information about the incident, or to say what offence if any he was suspected of.

Mr. Abraham Malatji and his



Hoofing it: Spaniards in white suits and red sashes sprinting before the bulls through the streets of Pamplona yesterday on the opening day of the annual Festival of San Fermín that lasts for a week.

## Chad tops agenda in Cairo

From Robert Holloway, Cairo

Mr. Robert Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, paid separate lightning visits to Cairo yesterday for talks with President Mubarak which centered on Western concern over the Libyan-backed insurgency in Chad.

Egypt and France have provided weapons for the Government of President Hissène Habré of Chad, whose forces were reported on Wednesday to have launched a counter-offensive against insurgents led by Mr. Goukouni Oueddei, the former President. Speaking to reporters after he had conferred with M. Cheysson, however, Mr. Shultz said that the Egyptian Foreign Minister, excluded the possibility that Egypt might send troops to Chad.

Officials said that during a meeting which lasted for 70 minutes, Mr. Mubarak and M. Cheysson also discussed the Gulf War and the problem of Lebanon.

PARIS: Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, yesterday threatened to send to some of Chad's neighbours quantities of military aid similar to those President Habré was now receiving (AFP reports).

NDJAMENA: Government forces have counterattacked rebel positions in a second day of fighting at Oum Chabouba, an oasis crossroads in northern Chad, according to officials in the capital (AP reports).

GENEVA: Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, said that foreign intervention in Chad was, to his knowledge, limited to arms supplies and that he did not intend taking any action over events there unless called upon (AFP reports).

## Shultz admits mission failure

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, publicly acknowledged yesterday that his Middle East tour had achieved nothing substantive about the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon but he said the United States was committed not to give up pursuit of the goal.

He talked informally to journalists outside the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem after meeting Menachem Begin and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the defence establishment.

Having failed to get Syrian consent to a total and simultaneous withdrawal by the forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Shultz discussed the Israeli proposal for a unilateral pull-back from the Beirut suburbs and the Shouf mountains.

Israeli sources said Mr. Shultz had been "unenthusiastic" but did not dispute the legitimacy of the defence establishment.

He also admitted that the Israeli plan which was calculated to reduce Israeli casualties.

He was reported to have communicated to the Israelis the concern of the Lebanese Government that its own forces may not be ready to maintain security in the area to be evacuated. The Lebanese also feared that the Israeli pull-back

## Arab killed after Israeli stabbed

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — Israeli settlers in Hebron in the occupied West Bank yesterday shot and killed a Palestinian after an Israeli youth was stabbed, security sources said. An unspecified number of assailants had attacked the Israeli youth near the town vegetable market and fled with his rifle. Jewish security guards chased the attackers by car. The body of a local Arab was found not far from the scene of the stabbing.

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radio: "I shall continue in my course. I am not challenging anyone but am stating my full faith in our course of service for Lebanon."

On Wednesday, Mr. Wazzan had ventured to the Christian-held port of Jounieh where he gave a speech defending the controversial troop withdrawal agreement between Israel and Lebanon. This was the first time since the civil war eight years ago that a Muslim leader had made a speech in a Christian stronghold.

A report compiled by the Lebanese Front, the coalition, of right-wing Christian parties, and published today, claimed

that an estimated 20 members of the breakaway Palestinian Group headed by Sabri Banna, also known as Abu Nidal, have entered eastern Lebanon, with instructions to assassinate Lebanese political figures, especially those who voted for the Lebanese-Israeli accord. Abu Nidal is based in Damascus.

Meanwhile it has been established that six soldiers of the French peacekeeping force and four Lebanese construction workers were killed in the collapse of a Beirut building on Wednesday. The last body was dug from under the rubble after an all night rescue operation.

## Wazzan escapes Beirut blast

From Kate Dourian, Beirut

radio: "I shall continue in my course. I am not challenging anyone but am stating my full faith in our course of service for Lebanon."

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## Kenya steps up security for tourists

From Our Correspondent, Nairobi

Mr. Elijah Mwangi, Kenya's Tourism Minister, yesterday announced that a new security network had been set up to protect visitors to the country's national parks and game reserves, after the murder of a British tourist by an armed gang which held up a tourist bus near Nairobi last month.

Mr. Mwangi said his ministry's anti-poaching force had been deployed to protect visitors to the Masai Mara game reserve, the most popular tourist destination. Patrols would also be carried out in game reserves, and police had stepped up surveillance to protect visitors from pickpockets and other criminals.

Police say they have arrested a number of men suspected of being involved in the recent gang attacks.



## En route for a Kremlin summit

From Our Correspondent, Moscow

Samantha Smith, aged 11, leaving Augusta, Maine, yesterday for a two-week trip to the Soviet Union at the invitation of President Andropov. She had sent a letter to Mr. Andropov asking why the Soviet Union wanted to conquer the world (AP reports). He replied personally saying that the Soviet Union wanted peace and inviting her and her parents to tour his country.

Samantha was taking gifts for her hosts.

## UN chief's Gulf hopes

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Despite the hatred expressed in their propaganda, Iran and Iraq are moving closer to ending hostilities, according to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General.

He told a press conference in Geneva, yesterday, that UN contacts with both countries were more positive and a "significant move" might not be long delayed. As soon as fighting ceased, the UN would offer assistance to Gulf environmental bodies in countering the

## Doubt over Mt Sinai and Moses

From Our Correspondent, Jerusalem

Brescia (AP) — An Italian archaeological team is challenging the belief that Moses received the ten commandments on a mountain in Sinai, saying the site of the biblical episode may instead be in the central Negev Desert.

Professor Emmanuel Anati, director of the French-based Camille Centre for Prehistoric Studies, told a news conference that archaeological findings suggest that Moses went to Mount Har Karkom in the Negev Desert to receive the tablets and that the place was already a sacred site before Moses' time.

The 2,400ft, plateau-crowned Mount Har Karkom is about 19 miles east of the Egyptian frontier and is at present an Israeli military zone.

"Sinai was searched to the north and south of the peninsula and even outside it, but there is no clear archaeological documentation to show the presence of ancient religious activity for any of the mountains believed to be Mount Sinai," Dr. Anati said. "Har Karkom is different because of its richness of evidence of religious activity, going back before the time of the exodus."

Dr. Anati said the path leading to Har Karkom was marked by several stone pillars and remains of a building, consistent with the account which says Moses "built an altar under the hill and 12 pillars according to the 12 tribes."

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## Kidnap call on Agca admitted by Vatican

Rome (Reuters) — The Vatican said yesterday it had heard from someone claiming contact with the kidnappers of a Vatican employee's daughter who are demanding release of Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who tried to kill the Pope in 1981.

The Vatican spokesman, Father Romeo Panciroli, said: "It is true that late Tuesday morning a telephone call was received by an office of the Holy See with a message for the Secretariat of State."

A man claiming to represent the kidnappers of 15-year-old Emanuela Orlando told the Ansa news agency by telephone that they had asked the Pope to press the Italian Government to free Mr. Agca, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in July, 1981.

Father Panciroli denied press reports that the Vatican had heard from the kidnappers before the Pope appealed last Sunday for the safe return of Emanuela, who vanished in Rome on June 22.

## Ukrainian kills himself in US

Lynn, Massachusetts (AP) — A 63-year-old Ukrainian immigrant, Michael Popczuk, despondent after he was accused in newspaper articles of brutalizing and murdering Jews in the Second World War found a rifle his wife had hidden and shot himself to death in his home, police said.

In New York a federal judge ruled that Popczuk, who was 76, an accused war criminal, may stay in the US though he allegedly helped the Nazis slaughter 20,000 Jews in Latvia. Federal immigration authorities are expected to appeal.

## Space ants die on shuttle

New York (NYT) — The first ants in space did not survive. About a hundred went into orbit with the US space shuttle Challenger on its recent flight.

They travelled in a special canister for an experiment by New Jersey schoolchildren. The cause of death is not known.

## Dissident's visit

New York (Reuters) — Soviet authorities have allowed Mr. Anatoly Shcharansky to see his mother and brother at Chislo prison for the first time since January, 1982, according to the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Mr. Shcharansky is in the fifth year of a 13-year sentence for treason.

## Banker accused

Paris (Reuters) — M. Pierre Moussa, former chairman of the French bank Paribas, three of his principal officers, and 63 customers have been charged with serious currency control violations and will go on trial next December, court officials said. Paribas was nationalized by the Socialists soon after they took power.

## Police peace

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — Argentine police in the northern province of Tucumán have ended a four-day rebellion over pay and working conditions, agreeing to enter fresh talks with the Government, but nearly all the country's schools were closed by a teachers' strike for more money.

## Crash kills 44

Ankara (AP) — A lorry packed with farmworkers careened off the road south-east of Ankara and plunged into a ravine, killing 44 passengers and injuring 17. The workers were travelling from the town of Alpullu to a new job site.

## Border appeal

Cotonou (AFP) — Upper Volta and Mali are to take their respective cases to the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Mr. Michel Kafando, Upper Volta's Foreign Minister, said here. Senegal has been asked to act as a mediator.

## Cannabis haul

Stockholm — The Swedish Drugs Squad had by yesterday fished up from the seabed off Göteborg on the west coast 19 waterproof sacks containing more than half a ton of cannabis with a street value of £5m. It is the biggest single drugs haul made in Sweden.

## Airport strike

Lisbon (AP) — Portugal's state airline, TAP-AIR Portugal, cancelled most international and internal flights yesterday because of a 24-hour strike for more pay by ground staff at Lisbon airport.

## Bistro victim

Paris (AFP) — Jean-Luc Attia, aged 22, is seriously ill in hospital after drinking a carafe of water in a Paris bistro which was pure caustic soda. The bistro owner said the caustic soda had been intended for the washers-up, but reached the service counter by mistake.

## Nicaraguan rebels say US is poised to arm them

From Martha Honey, San José, Costa Rica

The United States is poised to expand the scope of its involvement in the clandestine war against Nicaragua's left-wing Government by supplying military aid to anti-Sandinista guerrillas operating from Costa Rica. A top official of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) said US assistance is expected to begin this month after recent talks in Washington between the ARDE political leader, Señor Alfonso Robello and Reagan Administration officials, including President Reagan's special Central American envoy, Mr. Richard Stone, and three generals.

ARDE is led by a directorate composed of Señor Robello, a former Sandinista, Señor Edén Pastora and Señor Brooklyn Rivera, a leader of the Miskito Indians, who live on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast.

According to Señor Rivera, "The (US Government) gave some promises that they would supply some money and war materials within this new

## Rios Montt's sister held

Guatemala City (Reuters) —

The sister of President Rios Montt of Guatemala, who was abducted by four gunmen last week, is still missing and the kidnappers have made no contact. Señor Rios Montt has been under pressure to restore constitutional rule and Señora Martha Elena Rios de Rivas was the second of his relatives kidnapped since he took office 15 months ago.

She was seized on June 29, the day the President imposed a "state of alarm" on the country. News of the abduction was given only on Wednesday. Last October, leftwing guerrillas abducted the President's nephew who was freed a month later.

month (July)". ARDE has been engaged in small-scale guerrilla warfare in southern Nicaragua since May, but Señor Pastora has complained he lacked

sufficient weapons and supplies to expand the struggle.

Two weeks ago, while Señor Robello was in Washington seeking aid, Señor Pastora dramatically called a ceasefire because, he said, the organization was bankrupt. But, 48 hours later, he announced the resumption of fighting and ARDE guerrillas launched their biggest attack so far against the Nicaraguan coastal town of San Juan del Norte, near the border with Costa Rica.

Señor Pastora, Señor Robello and Señor Rivera all said resumed fighting was possible because they had received new pledges of international support.

In an interview, Señor Robello denied new aid was coming from the US or any other government, contending it was from "friendly people in different countries in Latin America, Europe and the US."

ARDE claims to have more than 2,000 guerrillas, an elaborate logistics system and an administrative staff of several hundred.

In contrast to Señor Robello, Señor Rivera says the Government of Portugal, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, as well as the US, have promised increased assistance.

Asked if US aid was assured, he said: "... it is not yet definite, but I think 75 per cent sure."

ARDE officials say the US has demanded, as a condition for aid, that they make an alliance with the Central Intelligence Agency-funded Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), a much larger guerrilla force fighting in northern Nicaragua from bases in Honduras.

Hitherto, Señor Pastora has rejected an alliance because FDN's military leadership is composed of members of the notorious National Guard of the former Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza. Señor Pastora and many other ARDE fighters fought against the Somoza dynasty in the war which brought the Sandinistas to power in 1979.

However, Señor Robello said: "The key reason why we aren't



## THE ARTS

## Cinema

## An exceptional talent for characterization

Another Time,  
Another Place (15)  
Gate Notting Hill

Sisters: The Balance of  
Happiness (15)  
ICA; Phoenix East Finchley

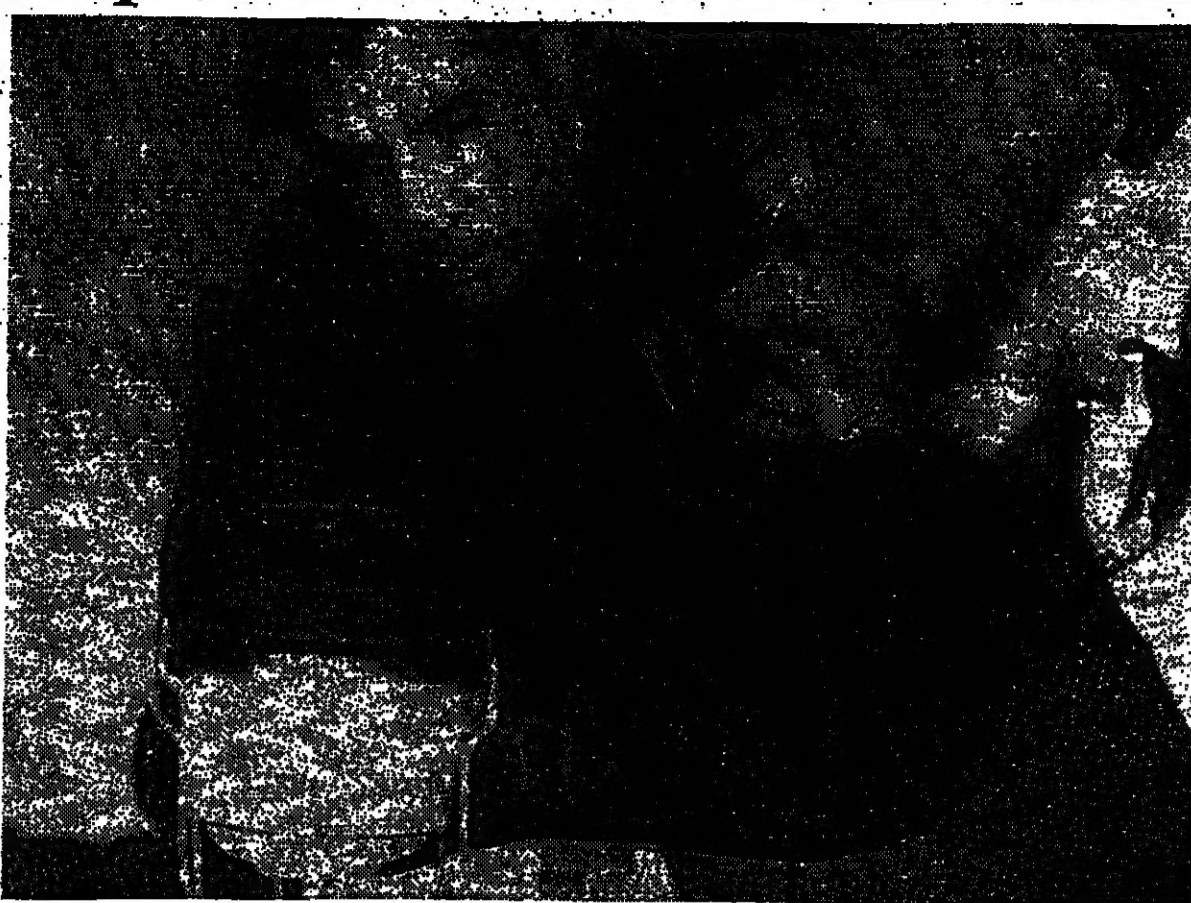
Italianamerican/  
American Boy  
Electric Cinema

Etoile du nord (PG)  
Odeon Kensington

Another Time, Another Place - and another promising new talent in British feature films. Michael Radford, who is 37, has until now worked mainly for BBC Television, for whom he directed the prize-winning play *The White Bird Passes* which, like this first feature film, was based on a novel by the Scottish writer Jessie Kesson and had the same star player, Phyllis Logan.

The story of *Another Time, Another Place* has all the signs of a recollection of actual events, which may explain why the end is at once a bit too pat and also evasive: real life does not provide ready dramatic denouements. The setting is a small, remote farming community on the north-east coast of Scotland, towards the end of the Second World War. Italian prisoners of war are sent to work on the land; three of them are billeted in the bothy adjoining the house of Finlay and his young wife Janie, who are grateful for the lodging allowance to augment the hard-earned earnings of their little farm.

The Italians are variously the object of curiosity, derision, suspicion and hatred by the rest of the community. Janie, younger and a little less restricted in her outlook than the women around her, is fascinated by their exotic speech and ways, their courtesy and sudden bursts of gaiety so different from the dour habit of the local menfolk. Perhaps, too, their resentment at incarceration awakes her own yearnings for some undefinable freedom. When sympathy leads to further sexual intimacy, it is not the gentle, romantic, handsome, young Paolo who seduces her, but Luigi, the randy little Neapolitan vegetable hawk. The encounters are coarse and secret, but Janie's guilt is mingled with a



Phyllis Logan revealing depths of calm and doubt, with Giovanni Mammello as Luigi

romantic dream, fated to be cruelly destroyed.

Michael Radford has an exceptional talent for visualization. His lighting cameraman Roger Deakins provides magnificent, painterly images of the Scottish skies and landscape. They are not just pictorial, though, but always convey the sense of the land to those who live upon it. For the Scots it represents a livelihood, reluctantly yielded. For the Italians it is a hostile, cold, wet place, far from the warmth of home. The re-creation of farm methods of forty years ago is not just for the sake of archaeological documentary, but speaks of aching backs and killing tiredness.

The villagers are economically but vividly characterized. The sombre two-piece suits in which the women dress up for the parish junket remind us how close they still are to memories of peasant survival. They are plain women with a narrow view of life, though even the funniest little body among them (Denise Coffey), who has a tart word for everyone, can be momentarily transformed when

she sings, to open up a chink on a vanishing folk culture. As Janie, Phyllis Logan is one of the screen's most natural beauties since Garbo, with her unadorned face and its depths of calm and gaiety and doubt.

If the Italians, in contrast to these swiftly but finely characterized women, seem stereotyped, it may be that we are seeing them through Janie's eyes, as beings from a foreign world, half the time talking gibberish she cannot understand (the film leaves us in the same pickle as Janie, by refusing us the assistance of subtitles) and gesturing like monkeys, at one moment moodily quarrelling over heaven knows what and the next distressing the quiet Scots with their noisy Neapolitan ditties.

After the comparative disappointment of *Heller Wahn* (at the Academy as *Friends and Husbands*), which suffers from the pretensions of someone trying too hard to live up to a sudden international reputation, it is cheering to go back to *Sisters: The Balance of Happiness*, which Margarete von Trotta made two films ago, before *The German Sisters*.

The first hour of the film is unerring in building, bit by bit, the interdependence of the two sisters of the title, Maria and Anna. The elder is devoted to devotion: at work she is the faultless private secretary, at home she steadfastly supports her sister, economically as well morally, through her university course in biology. It is a mutual devotion that has lasted since childhood, but Anna sees the flaw: "You need me to need you". Anna's need is actual, and greater than either understands. When Maria acquires a male friend, Anna cannot bear to share her devotion. She commits suicide, with the simple comment, as a biologist, "I am breaking a law of nature".

The script is economical, the images are spare, exact and elegant, the actresses Julia Lampe and Gudrun Gabriel are fine. Even some evident devices - the younger sister earns extra money by writing letters for an old blind woman who lives in a crabby interdependence with her sister - are so well executed as to be wholly acceptable. Only in the last

third of the film do schematism and a compulsion to dramatize the story obtrude. Maria, only half consciously, attempts to replace Anna by adopting and remoulding an amiable, naturally feckless young typist from her office. The fascination of the film hardly diminishes, only some of the belief.

*Italianamerican* and *American Boy* are the first two in a series of American portraits which Martin Scorsese intends or intended to make in between his feature films. They were made four years apart, in 1974 and 1978, and the second, *American Boy*, is much more artful and dramatized than the first, a *cinéma vérité* sketch of Scorsese's own parents, at home in New York. He views them with affection, amusement and a little regret for the erosion of the ethnic traditions and vitality of the Italian Americans. It is a lively portrait: Charles and Catherine are wholly at ease, quite unselfconscious and unimpressed by their boy's movie toys - real life, funny, prejudiced, ordinary people in our midst.

The subject of *American Boy*, Steven Prince, has worked with Scorsese and played bit parts in *Taxi Driver* (the arms dealer) and *New York, New York*. He is Scorsese's contemporary, but from a different, WASPish social class. Scorsese perhaps too deliberately sets him up to exhibit the malaise of a generation. Prince affords world-weariness: he has been through drugs, sexual experiment, violence, firearms (he grew up in a family which possessed 700 guns of one sort or another). It is an intriguing, if not exactly appealing, portrait.

*Etoile du nord* is an adaptation of Simonen's *Le Locataire*, curiously messaged up considering that the writing team included the gifted veteran Jean Aureche. To fit the leading character to the mannerisms of Philippe Noiret, he has been changed from a young Turk-Jewish con man to the middle-aged former gigolo of a deceased Egyptian singing star. The action is still roughly the same: the man commits a passionless murder for robbery, and takes refuge in a little lodging house in Brussels. The essential changes of character, and a facile play for sympathy by attributing the crime to a moment of amnesia, throw all the relationships of the novel, however, and make the narrative a long, unprofitable haul. There is some compensation in the chance to watch Simone Signoret, the most magnificent of romantic ruins, on the screen after a long illness. She deserves much better, though. The director was Pierre Granier-Deferre.

David Robinson

Music in New York  
Resident rewards

After its subscription season ended the New York Philharmonic in past years presented a non-subscription "festival" centred around one composer (last year Stravinsky). This year the Philharmonic decided to be adventurous and to programme a series of seven concerts and several symposia on contemporary music, predominantly of American composers.

The impetus for this festival came from the creation of a two-year scheme for composers to work with major symphony orchestras. Currently six orchestras (not including, significantly, Boston, Philadelphia or Chicago) have composers-in-residence; a seventh will be added in the autumn. Jacob Druckman, a widely-performed composer who is working on a Metropolitan Opera commission, is the Philharmonic's resident, and he and they created the series, which was entitled "Horizons, '83: Since 1968, a New Romanticism?" Besides the Philharmonic, several of New York's contemporary groups were included in the performances.

The emphasis on the question of whether music has returned to romanticism from its serial years was probably owing to the need for a focus as well as for a selling-point, for in the event the composers represented were more a broad spectrum of current composition than members of any definable school. Indeed, the series could just as well have been called "Druckman and Friends and Colleagues: 27 pieces by 27 composers".

Yet the work which was used as the initiative, and which was played in the fifth concert, remains one key to whatever defines the new romanticism. Luciano Berio's *Sinfonia*, premiered (in 1968) by the Philharmonic - and particularly its third, "Mähler" movement - was a signal event, in that it served as a liberating statement to both younger composers and to audiences. The *Sinfonia*, for all its obvious ties to the world of the 1960s, still works in performance, as the standing ovation Berio received attested.

In the five concerts I heard there were several pieces by non-Americans (Maxwell Davies, Takemitsu, Balassa), and of the American contingent both coasts were well represented, though there was nothing in between. The performances themselves, not surprisingly, were more competent than inspired, because of the exigencies of rehearsal time. Yet it is to the Philharmonic's credit as a professional group that they tackled so effectively the variety of styles presented over such a restricted span of time. What the orchestra lacks, especially five years removed from the influence of Pierre Boulez, is a hair-trigger sense of rhythm and chording, and an ability to play slowly and softly. The conductor Arthur Weisberg, in a programme devoted

to what was billed as an "open rehearsal", had a difficult time getting the strings to play a genuine pianissimo for a fragment from a George Crumb work-in-progress.

Zubin Mehta, as music director, has been only minimally interested in the newest music. He appeared for only two of the concerts, one the rehearsal mentioned above, in which he conducted two works by young Americans (Aaron Jay Kernis and Nicholas Thorne). The other concert included a recent piece by the elder statesman William Schuman (*Colloquies for Horn*), the Berio, and the world premiere of an intermittently effective song-cycle for tenor (Paul Sperry) on poems about the sun by the expatriate Bernard Rands. Mehta's unfeeling, brash and superficial readings did not enhance the merits of any of the scores.

I was most impressed by John Harbison's virtuosic yet graceful Violin Concerto (the soloist was Charles Rex) which draws on Harbison's exquisite feeling for continuous musical line and captivating themes and encases them in a solidly-constructed whole. The cadenza for the unlikely combination of soprano, bass and contrabass clarinets in Donald Martino's Triple Concerto (played by the Group for Contemporary Music) stood out from its rather academic and dour surroundings. Fred Lehmann's *Chorale* and Morton Subotnick's *Ascend into Air* (which combined computer-generated sound with instruments) both demonstrated a timbral allure and an impressionistic elegance.

What was notable about the festival was the organizational expertise of Druckman and the response from an audience genuinely interested in hearing unfamiliar music. One listener's favourite may have been another's also-also, but the two works that called forth significant boos were David Del Tredici's *All in a Golden Afternoon* and John Adams's *Grand Piano*. The former, a 1981 contribution to Del Tredici's obsession with Lewis Carroll's *Alice* books, demonstrated conclusively that the underground adventure well had run dry. The latter, by one of America's most interesting "minimalist" composers, climaxed in a third movement which flung the paintpot of arrant dominant-tonic sound - set for two pianos and orchestra - into the face of the audience, combining the overblown rhetoric of the opening of the Busoni Piano Concerto with the simplicity of the big tune at the close of *Appalachian Spring*. Adams is better served by other works.

For all its faults, however, this festival was an experiment well worth becoming a fixture, preferably with a music director as committed as the composer-in-residence.

Patrick J. Smith

## Concert

## The clear-headed musicologist

ECO/Rifkin  
Barbican

This was a surprise and, happily, a pleasant one. André Previn had to withdraw from this English Chamber Orchestra concert and in his place, the orchestra booked not one of the unimpeachable underemployed conductors well known to them but a visiting American who was suddenly enabled to make his debut here.

Joshua Rifkin may mean

Scott Joplin rags to you, but he is a musicologist with weighty Grove articles to his credit, who both worked for and recorded with Nonesuch over a long period. It was a nice irony that the programme he took over on Wednesday night, included Strauss's *Metamorphosen* for 23 solo strings, since Rifkin has been causing sensationalist yavves in the musicological world recently by arguing that almost all Bach's choral music was performed by one singer to a part, and here he was conducting a Richard Strauss

work on the very same principle. Now it would be unwise to overestimate Rifkin's achievement in drawing a magnificent performance from the ECO, for I dare say they could play the piece well even if conducted by the Barbican's head of planning or publicity. Yet firm direction, the pointing of climaxes and the control of overall dynamics and movement can make a considerable difference, and in all these areas Rifkin was positive, clear and effective. He may not have known the work inside out - who except a string player would? - but he made the most of its swooning phrases and gorgeous dissonances.

In the first half Rifkin directed with similarly atmospheric conviction a piece he can scarcely ever have heard of, George Butterworth's *The Banks of Green Willow*, a watery idyll to which the orchestra brought pleasantly pastel shades. But the joy of the concert, which Rifkin was powerless to affect in any detail, was the collaboration of Norbert Brainin and Peter Schidlof in Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* (and afterwards, as a huge bonus, the whole of one of Mozart's Duos for unaccompanied violin and viola). There may have been times when intonation, or rhythm, or phrasing, or all three slipped, but at its best - in the eerie rising scales of the slow movement and the freely-intervened cadenza of the first - the pair were marvellously penetrating, understanding Mozartians. Rifkin for his part helped with crisp rhythms and firm accents in the orchestra, and the horns had an especially good night.

Nicholas Kenyon

## Opera

## Electric charge in the pit

La cenerentola  
Glyndebourne

First impressions here are hugely encouraging, and they are very, very right. On entering Glyndebourne's little theatre one finds the stage bedecked for a fairy tale, with wobbly models to left and right of a decrepit castle and a pretty chateau, fit homes for Don Magnifico and Prince Ramiro. The eye is prepared for a *Cinderella* which takes place as if in one of those children's books of three-dimensional cut-outs, all skew perspectives and conflicting sizes in tones of sepia and gold.

And then the orchestra starts up. What can I say? It must be obvious to anyone that a Rossini overture is calculated to set the audience in exactly the right tingling mood to enjoy a Rossini opera, but rarely can the trick have been worked so effectively as it is here. Bang in the middle of a highly successful Glyndebourne season for them, the London Philharmonic Orchestra are in crack form, and they have found a conductor to take full advantage of their fizzing expertise: Donato Renzetti, appearing in this country for the first time.

A former percussionist who played under Claudio Abbado at La Scala, Mr Renzetti makes the overture one of the high spots of the evening, with perfectly articulated presto detail, silvery elegance of sound and quite the longest controlled crescendo I have ever heard in any context. It is unfortunate only that, on Wednesday as any rate, the singers were not able to match the orchestra's elasticity when the effect was repeated at the end of the first act. But never mind. No doubt they will: they are a spirited bunch.

The title role is taken by Kathleen Kuhlmann, who made a striking British debut last autumn in *Semele* at Covent Garden. Here she is a winning



Laurence Dale as Ramiro: a personable youth singing with engaging freshness

heroine, though a little hampered on the first night by some uncertainty about the scale of the house, occasionally she sounded rather too decisive and mature, while in ensembles she tended to be lost. These, however, are problems that no doubt will sort themselves out. Indeed they had already been well and truly solved by the time she embarked on her last song, which she made into a virtuosic necklace of soft-hued pearls and brilliant diamonds well separated.

Her two sisters are an ill-assorted pair, Maria Taddei a lusty Clorinda whose voice sounds clear and true on the top of every ensemble, and Laura Zannini a slightly drab Tisbe. When they are together, though,

the contrast works nicely, and both are so evidently enjoying themselves that it is hard to resist enjoying them. The same goes for Claudio Desderi's Don Magnifico, who has a marvellous scene at the start of the second act, playing the vivacious Italian count to six English languid boys.

His command of patter is rivalled only by Alberto Rinaldi as Dandini, another whose comic acting is fully the equal of his vocal ingenuity and stamina. Laurence Dale as Ramiro is a personable youth, smiling on intrigue but having his heart always in the right place and singing with an engaging freshness. Alidoro, his tutor and the opera's equivalent of the Fairy Godmother, is saved from becoming a bore partly because Roderick Kennedy towers so outrageously above everyone else on the stage, partly because he sings so splendidly and partly because he has the insolent authority of one of Renzetti's youthful self-portraits.

The costumes more generally are an excellent success. Allen Charles Klein dresses Ramiro and his courtiers as young cavaliers, with flouncing wigs to match, and there are different varieties of splendour for the bulbous Don Magnifico and for Cinderella's bridal gown. Placed within the cardboard-looking sets, the clothes delight; so too does the storm scene done within a miniature theatre, complete with mechanical cloud, sun, lightning bolts and coaches and with rain cast in handblown by the pages.

It is typical of Glyndebourne to lavish such attention on a toy, and typical of John Cox as producer to stimulate and be stimulated by his designer. This is the team that gave Scottish Opera its gorgeous *Figaro* and the result this time is similarly charming and quite unaffected. So long as Mr Renzetti remains in the pit, it will be also electric.

Paul Griffiths

Television  
Stony silence

those stones were raised before druids were thought of though, in last night's programme *Stonehenge* - Temple of the Longest Day on Channel 4, it was posited that echoes of older faiths could have reached druidism. Lots of things, however, were posited in this programme, which included a whole posse of professors.

We were whipped around sites with bewildering speed

ways to return to Stonehenge and a new lot of theories. The most interesting one, I thought, was that all these massive stones were territorial markers, nothing more. Others might have been interesting if one could have been quite clear what they were but, though the programme had the best part of an hour, Paul Jordan's script would probably be as puzzling to our descendants, were it to survive some thousands of years, as the megaliths are to us.

Professor Richard Atkinson, of University College, Cardiff, put his finger on it when he said "The whole thing is really extremely difficult to disentangle". It only remained for the narrator, Robert Powell, to say that "Phase two was preceded by phase one" to make one realize that some things will remain mysteries for ever.

Dennis Hackett

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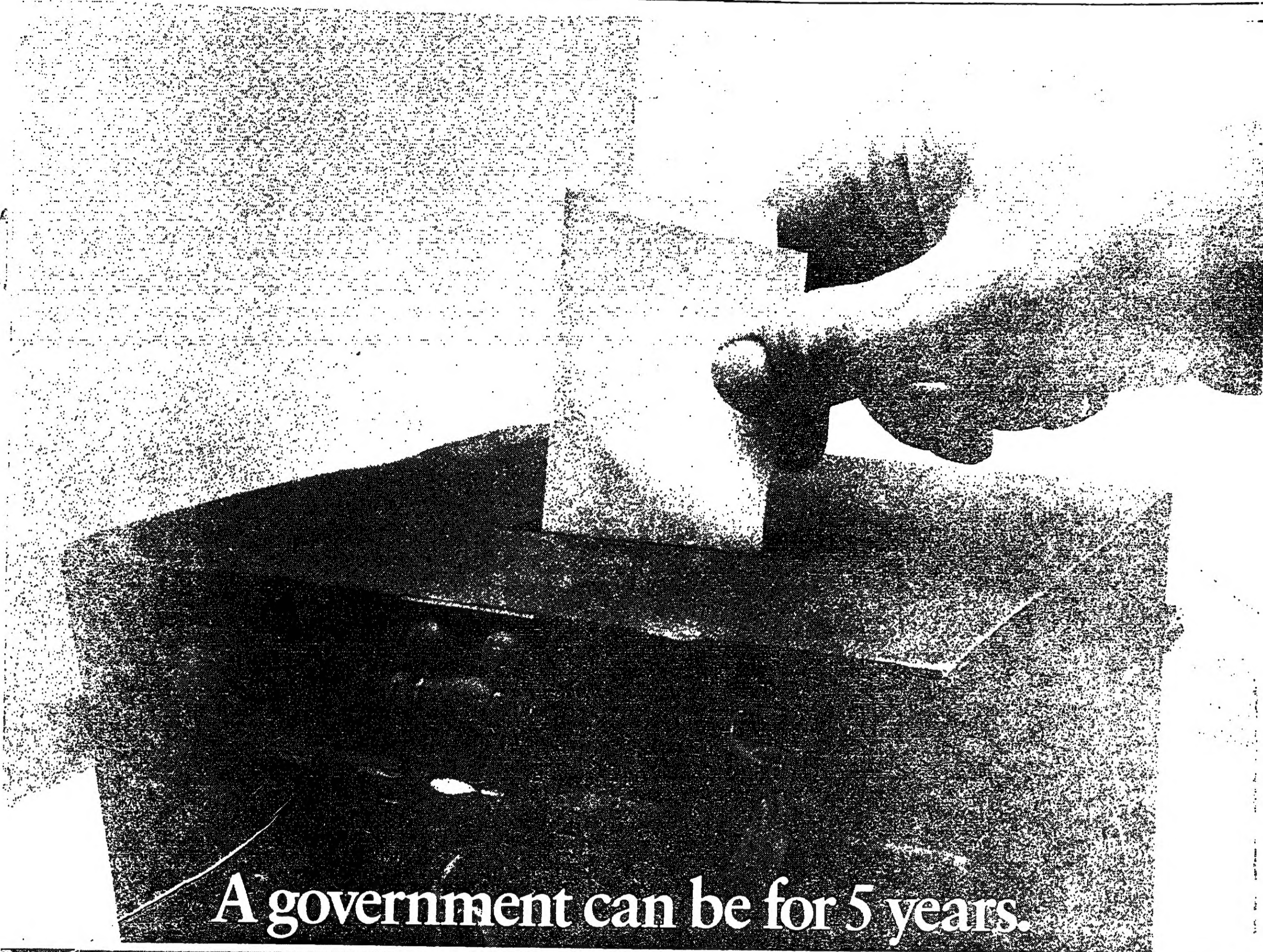
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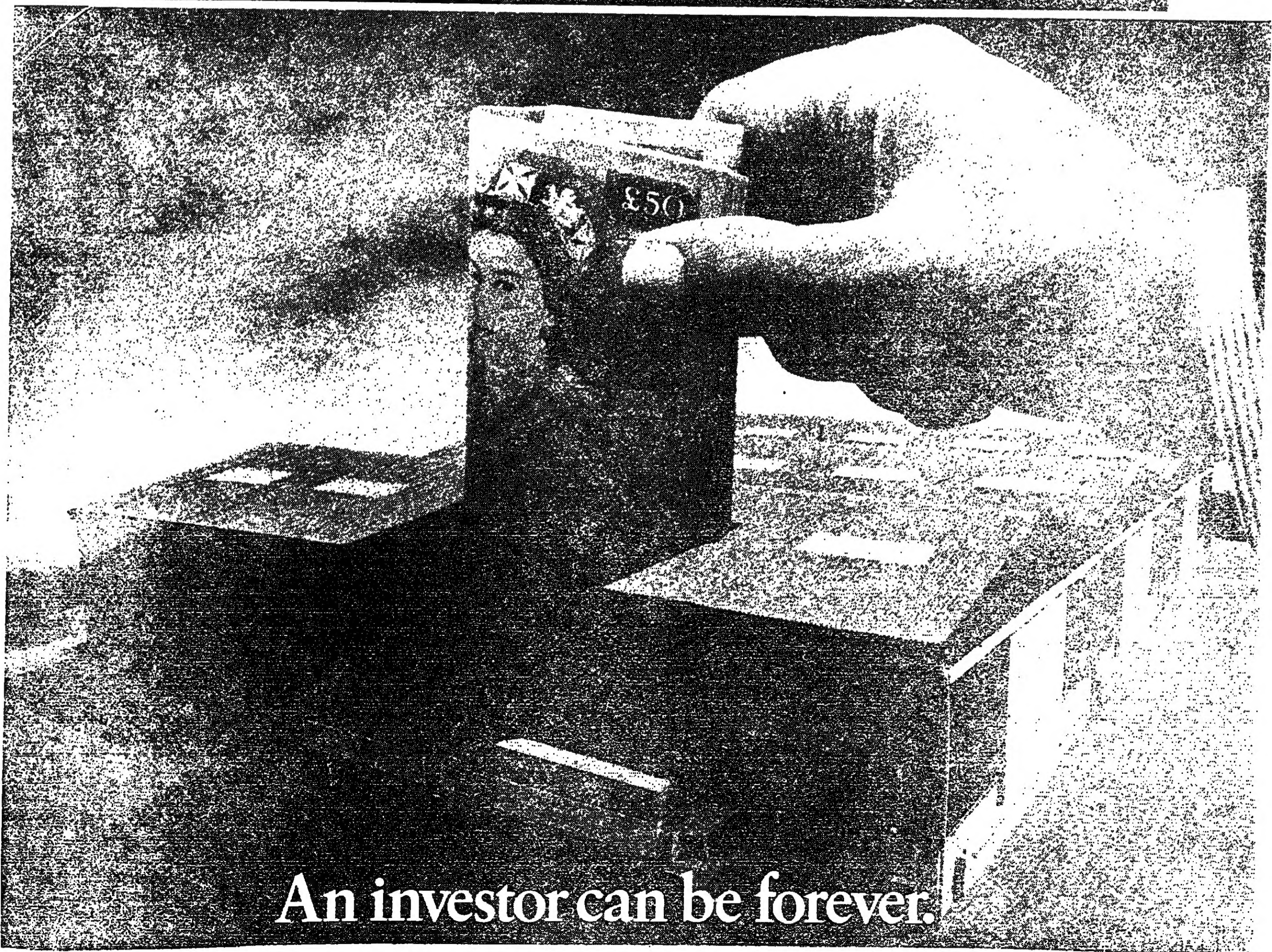
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When Arthur and Cynthia Koestler committed suicide they left 'an experimental autobiography by two hands'. The book gives their often contrasting views of Koestler's personal and political life. Here Cynthia recalls their part in the campaign during the 1950s to abolish capital punishment

## Cutting down the noose

In that summer of 1955 the Italian boat *Saturnia* set sail from New York for the Mediterranean. My mother, dressed in shades of hyacinth and lavender, was waiting to meet me at Cannes. I had never been to the Mediterranean before and was disappointed by the beach at Cannes with its rows and rows of sunburnt, well-oiled bodies. Yet I went there every day for fear of losing my tan.

On Bastille night, kept awake by distant cries of late-night revellers and the spluttering of fireworks, I thought of the first chapter in *The Age of Longing* and wondered how Arthur would have spent the *Quatorze Juillet* if he had been in Cannes - certainly not alone in a stuffy hotel room. On that same *Quatorze Juillet* he sent me a postcard: "Welcome to Europe! Am still in London - working on two books at once; won't be able to get away until later in August. Enjoy yourself and let me know when you arrive. Love - ex-boss."

How could he be working on two books at once? On the day he sent me the postcard he rang Victor Gollancz and noted in his diary: "Cap. punishment crusade started".

As John Grigg was to write 25 years later in *Astride the Two Cultures*: "It seemed to Arthur that the time was ripe for a full-scale assault on the institution of capital punishment in Britain. In the summer of 1955 he approached Victor Gollancz with the suggestion that they should together organize a national campaign. Gollancz had never been an intimate friend but he had published Arthur's first book in English, *Spanish Testament*, and they had worked together as Zionists. Arthur admired Gollancz's enthusiasm and his prowess as an impresario of good causes. Their joint efforts for abolition were to prove fruitful but stormy."

On July 25 Arthur noted in his diary: "Work on *Reflections* only; Kepler shelved. Cynthia arrives."

In a Spanish restaurant facing the back of Harrods he told me about the capital punishment campaign and *Reflections on Hanging*. I remembered a grey morning early in 1953 when Bentley was hanged at nine o'clock and I remembered the grey despair in Arthur's face.

He wanted to know now what I thought about the abolition of capital punishment. Of course I was in favour of it, I told him, but shouldn't some calculating, cold-blooded murderers be hanged? Such cases were extremely rare, he explained patiently. As for murderers like Christie and Heath, they were mentally sick. Hanging was an archaic institution and should be abolished. I needed little convincing.

He was "burning to write" his book, he said, but he could only dictate it to me. He thought he could finish it by the time I was due to return to New York in early September.

That first evening with him during my visit to London was full of surprises and indeed I could hardly have expected it to be otherwise. I was caught up again in a hurricane.

WHILE Arthur dictated *Reflections on Hanging* I sat in his study, curled up in the armchair beside the fireplace. Every available bit of space was covered with books, lying open or piled up, bristling with bookmarks in the form of brightly covered tapers for lighting the fire, which he bought at Woolworths. He was constantly referring to them - quite a juggling act with so many books - while he dictated Chapter 1, "The Heritage of the Past".

We were living in a world of galleys and gibbets, which were common objects in the early nineteenth-century countryside. "creaking and groaning with the bodies of criminals". He had warned me that parts of the book would be stomach-turning. Sometimes he turned pale when dealing with the physiological facts about hanging and looked to see whether I could bear it. Surely he's used to it, I thought. At lunch and dinner I tried not to think of rotting corpses.

Though people in England were shocked by the hanging of Ruth Ellis - the last woman in England to be hanged - who shot her lover in a fit of jealousy, most of the national press stood firmly on the side of capital punishment. *The Observer*, the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Yorkshire Post* were among the few exceptions. I trembled as I read the comments in *The Times* - how could the climate of opinion possibly be changed? But I relished Arthur's attacks on the bastions of the Establishment and in particular on the hanging judges. His *bête noir* was the Lord Chief Justice himself. He wrote: "I have no personal animosity against Lord Chief Justice Rayner Goddard; but as the highest judge in the realm, he is the symbol of authority, and his opinions, which I shall have frequent occasion to quote, carry immense weight in the debate about hanging."

He intended to write the book in a "cool and detached manner," but it was not turning out that way. Surely he should be more dispassionate, I sometimes thought. All that highly charged, restrained emotion was like a fist in my solar plexus. He got some of it out of his system in the first draft and toned it down, but as he wrote in the preface: "In 1937, during the Civil War in Spain, I spent three months under sentence of death as a suspected spy, witnessing the executions of my fellow-prisoners and awaiting my own. These three months left me with a vested interest in capital punishment... I shall never achieve real peace of mind until hanging is abolished."

"Work, work, work," he wrote in his diary. The book was beginning to grow into an obsession.

When he finished the chapter on "Free Will and Determinism or The Philosophy of Hanging" - he called it the most difficult one - he was more than halfway through the book. He was like somebody possessed and the subject was never far from his mind. If we went to a pub for a drink, he would start up a discussion with the publican - perhaps one of his ways of feeling the pulse of the nation. All publicans were pro-hanging, which, of course, was just what Arthur was hoping for, and he would present a diabolically reasoned and objective case for abolition. Although he never gave up hope. Even at the end of a working day, the obsession would continue to pursue him.

In his diary he wrote: "Mania at peak". He could not stop talking or reading about capital punishment when he was not writing about it. At night he continued to dictate the book to me in his sleep. I tried hard to memorize his words as they poured out - punctuated every now and then by "full stop", "semi-colon", or "new para". When I repeated my recollections to him in the morning, they turned out to be gibberish, but in the middle of the night they had seemed vital.

Arthur called this shared obsession a *folie à deux*. It was the beginning of my becoming, in his words, a "junior partner", though I did not realize it then.

A heat-wave was on. From the study window, which overlooks the tops of plane trees, there was a small rectangle of sky far too blue to be English. It was hot under the roof and the walls with their pine panelling raised the temperature even more.

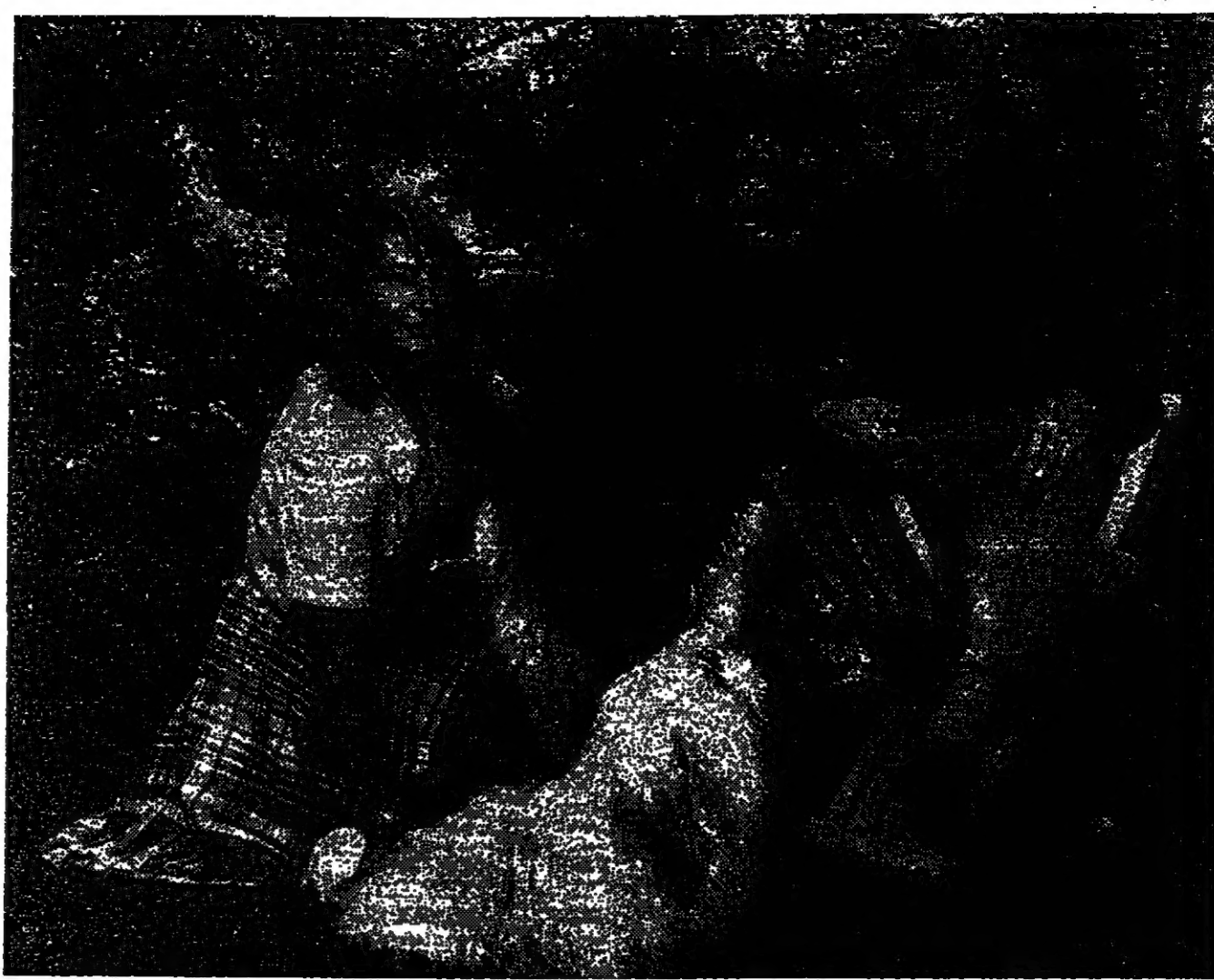
During the heat-wave, he began Part Three of the book: "The End of the Nightmare". This part was unsparring in its glimpses of the struggles of prisoners on their way to the gallows, some "carried tied to a chair" or dragged with "arms pinioned to the back, like animals". I could not help thinking of a passage in his autobiography, which he had also dictated to me and which was about one of his earliest and most traumatic memories. At the age of five he had had his tonsils removed, without anaesthetics, in a doctor's surgery in Budapest. This image of the young Koestler, his arms and legs secured to a chair by leather straps, rendered helpless, choking and coughing up blood - this image was my silent companion during the writing of *Reflections on Hanging*.

The sprint to finish the first draft of *Reflections on Hanging* continued until August 30. The date for my return to New York was fixed for early September, but as Arthur was still hard at work on the final draft, I postponed it by 10 days.

Two days before leaving, I went with Arthur to the Old Bailey where a murder trial was being held. The defendant, Donald Brown, aged 19, had killed an elderly tobacconist in his little shop and robbed the till. The court was nearly empty since the case had nothing sensational about it. Nevertheless it did seem strange that the trial was conducted to the sound of snoring - macabre, Arthur called it.



**VICTOR GOLLANCZ**  
An enthusiastic impresario of good causes, eventually he lost interest



Cynthia and Arthur Koestler: he called their shared obsession "*folie à deux*"

The elderly official who was responsible for it sat near the judge and had once been shaken gently by the shoulder, but soon succumbed again and this time was left in peace.

When the jury returned a verdict of guilty, the official whose snoring had been so persistent suddenly came to life and now played his appointed role in the act. He handed the black cap to the judge, who set it on his wig and passed the death sentence. The defendant was told that he would be hanged by the neck until dead and his body removed for burial in the prison grounds. The youth, standing in the dock with his jailers seated behind him, looked down at the floor, dazed and a little defiant. "Terrible," wrote Arthur in his diary. Later he told me with relief that Donald Brown had been reprieved.

Arthur finished *Reflections on Hanging* on October 3 and sent the typescript to Gollancz. At last he returned to the fifteenth century: "Back to Copernic", he wrote with belief, but he had no sooner started it than he was interrupted. Gerald Gardiner, QC, had read *Reflections on Hanging* for Arthur's publisher, Gollancz, and considered quite a few passages libellous.

Gerald Gardiner, who later became Lord Chancellor, was one of the leading lights of the capital punishment campaign. His own book on the subject was also being published by Gollancz. "In their different ways", to quote by John Grigg, "these two books provided an overwhelming statement of the case for abolition". Though Gardiner was passionately against capital punishment, his style was cool and detached, and no doubt *Reflections on Hanging* challenged the cautious attitude of a legal mind.

"Nearly finished last Gardiner-caused correction", Arthur wrote with resignation in his diary. He had spent two weeks on a job he considered a waste of time.

On October 27 he sent the final typescript of *Reflections on Hanging* to Gollancz and on the same day went to the British Museum library to take up the thread at last of his work on Copernicus and Kepler. He was longing to get back to writing, but soon he developed a "stinking cold", and was plagued with one of his psychosomatic ailments - this time "nausea".

"Cold even worse", he noted in his diary, and spent most of the day in bed reading some biographies of Casanova, for he was toying with the idea of writing an essay on Casanova and Don Juan. Still in bed with a temperature on November 5, he listened to *Fidelio* on the radio from Vienna, and later got up to see some friends.

"Then blank - then cable to Cynthia." In the cable, Arthur mentioned "new developments" and asked me to come back to London and work for him for six months.

On November 10 in a crowded London hall the first meeting of the National Campaign for the Abolition of Capital Punishment was held. "V.G. pays tribute to me as initiator; felt very proud", he wrote in the diary.

Towards the end of November,



**DAVID ASTOR**  
An unflinching and courageous ally throughout the abolitionist campaign

Edward Hulton, proprietor of *Picture Post* and Gerald Gardiner came "solemnly for drinks" at Montpelier Square. "H says converted", Arthur noted. The campaign had few allies among the Press, but it was getting into full swing and during that winter I worked part-time at the campaign's headquarters in the publishing house of Gollancz in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. A cubicle had been partitioned off from the packing department on the ground floor and served as an office for Peggy Duff, the secretary and treasurer, and her handful of voluntary workers. Peggy had campaigned before for Gollancz on the Save the Children Fund. Nervous at first of her blunt manner and daunting ability to cope with the daily crises, I soon became as devoted to Peggy as all her workers were.

Occasionally Victor Gollancz breezed in - a genial patriarch whose features resembled those of a hawk. Despite his whims, which Arthur was fighting against during those turbulent months, I had a paradoxical liking for him. Even at the first meeting of the executive committee during the summer, Gollancz and Arthur had clashed.

Gollancz had apparently hoped that *Reflections on Hanging* would stress the religious aspects of capital punishment, upon which he himself drew heavily in the campaign pamphlet he wrote, *Capital Punishment: The Heart of the Matter*, which Arthur privately dismissed as beating about the bush. The other campaign pamphlet, written by Gerald Gardiner and Arthur, was called *Capital Punishment: The Facts*. V.G.'s religious feelings, together with a desire to hold the centre of the stage, caused endless delays in the publishing of *Reflections on Hanging*. It took two months to write, but seven to publish.

On New Year's Eve, Arthur wrote to David Astor, editor of *The Observer*, which was going to serialize *Reflections on Hanging* in early February: "For a happy start of the New Year three people are scheduled to be hanged on January 3 and 6 respectively. All three are obviously psychiatric cases... I would like to write a few lines (anonymous) for Table Talk or any other appropriate column. This raises the more general issue of a systematic coverage of these semi-anonymous cases who are dispatched in our name without fanfare..."

Thus began Vigil, a pseudonym under which Arthur wrote in *The Observer* and which, he felt, gave him the freedom to fight more effectively for the cause rather than under his own name, which was that of a notorious pro-abolitionist. Also, he wanted Vigil to be a collective pseudonym for a team, but David Astor was against this. Arthur had a "hard fight" (as he wrote in the diary) before David Astor reluctantly agreed "to make Vigil a team".

Clarence William Ward, a labourer of below-average intelligence, was due to be executed on January 26. *The Observer* printed Vigil's first piece, attacking the Appeal Court judge - none other than Lord Chief Justice Goddard. David Astor sent Arthur a copy of the newspaper, hot from the press, on the Saturday night, January 21, with a handwritten note: "My dear



**GERALD GARDINER**  
Koestler's passionate arguments challenged the caution of a legal mind

Vigil. Here it is. En avant! Yours, David."

"Ward reprieved", wrote Arthur in the diary three days later. "Editorial in *Manchester Guardian* attributing it to Vigil."

Occasionally I caught glimpses of David Astor when he came to Montpelier Square. During those tempestuous months he was an unflinching ally of Arthur's and stood by him with a courage that was awe-inspiring.

In January the first *Campaign Bulletin*, of which Arthur was the author, appeared - a monthly production circulated to the 65 members of the campaign's committee of honour, the press and other contacts. A feature of the *Bulletin* was the "Newgate Calendar 1956", which gave brief case-histories of defendants in murder trials. The first issue reported the cases of four men who had been reprieved, after a sojourn in the condemned cell. Arthur wrote to David Astor: "... I do not share the general optimism regarding the capital punishment issue. Wait for two or three particularly nasty murders in London - they always come in series as recently in Glasgow - and there will be a great comeback of the retentionists, blaming it all on too many recent reprieves."

A debate in the House of Commons on capital punishment, with a free vote, was imminent. In early February, Gerald Gardiner and Peggy Duff came to Montpelier Square one evening. Over drinks Peggy said that V.G. had "completely lost interest" in the campaign. On February 14 - the eve of the Commons debate - Arthur feared the "shock of tomorrow's defeat". But his pessimism was unfounded.

There was an excellent view from the Visitors' Gallery. On the Front Bench the members of the Cabinet - Churchill among them - reclined. Sydney Silverman gave one of the main speeches in favour of abolition. As he returned to his seat, walking past the Front Bench, Churchill glanced at him briefly with faint contempt.



"Unforgettable... Incredible surprise vote", Arthur wrote in the diary. Afterwards a group of abolitionists gathered at the entrance of the Commons in a buoyant mood. A woman in a well-worn winter coat - the organizer of one of the campaign's provincial offices - rushed up to Victor Gollancz to ask if they should cancel their forthcoming meeting. To Arthur's horror, Gollancz said yes. [The reason for his "horror" was, of course, that the House of Lords might throw out to Bill - as indeed happened. It was not until 1965 that the death penalty was suspended and it was 1970 before it was finally abolished.] "Anti-climax", he wrote in the diary. "Row with V.G. in front of Commons not to pack up." Perhaps others who witnessed the scene also longed, like me, to sink beneath the floor. The general mood of rejoicing dissolved into uneasy confusion. Gollancz reluctantly agreed to a meeting of the executive committee.

Further extracts will appear in *The Times* in the autumn. Stranger on the Square by Cynthia and Arthur Koestler is to be published by Hutchinson on October 24, price £8.95.

moreover...  
Miles Kington

## They're all different in Clones

About once a month I like to broaden my mind by browsing through the Irish section at my local West London newsagent. To cater for the expatriate and perhaps homesick, there is a whole rack of provincial Irish newspapers containing wonderful local gossip and stories that never make the British press, though this time it was a quiz in *The Munster Express* that caught my eye.

1. "By Killarney's Lakes and Fells". What is a Fell?

2. Who founded the Irish Christian Brothers?

3. Who is the President of the USA? (Answers at foot of column.)

While wrestling with the mind behind this curious but poetic collection of questions, I fell to wondering if the inhabitants of Munster or indeed the people who work on *The Munster Express* (which - and I did not know this - has a greater circulation, net sales, than the TOTAL of ALL Waterford and Kilkenny newspapers) minded very much that there is a popular TV series called *The Munsters*, based loosely on Charles Addams's weird family. Still musing, I spotted a supplement entitled *Kill Festival*, and next to it a long report on the doings of the Clones Council. I had no idea till I got out my atlas at home (this is what I call horizon-broadening) that there were places called Tempo and Drum. How the inhabitants of Clones must have groaned when the word "clone" became fashionable, and how they must hate it when people murmur in their ear: "Send in the clones."

But this sort of confusion is not limited to Ireland, and inhabitants of small Irish towns are not the only ones who are smashing their teeth in suppressed fury. How do the makers of MX, which I am sure is a wonderful tyre, feel now that Ronald Reagan has decided to throw his weight behind a bomb of the same name? Every time that they advertise the marvels of their road-gripping product, they must know in their heart of hearts that a newspaper headline is about to scream "Massive European demos say No to MX!", and that a small confused section of the public believes that car tyres can now wipe out Moscow.

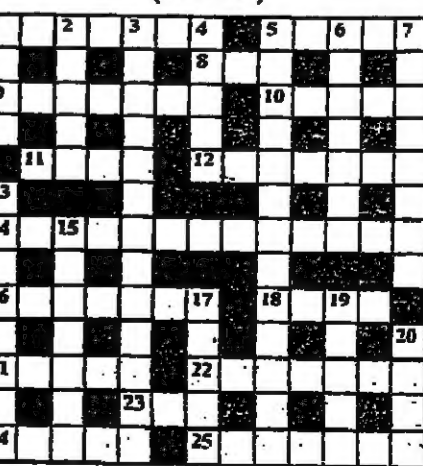
I also have some sympathy for the makers of Ayds, the slimming product, who suddenly have to fight against the awareness that AIDS is a particularly nasty disease produced in America and now being exported. If AIDS were a rival firm you could simply sue them for copying the sound your name, but how do you sue a disease? What can British Telecom do about the medical profession, who have recently decided to do away with the phrase VD and replace it with STD, for Sexually Transmitted Diseases?

The answer, I suppose, is pretend that nothing has happened. I am told that airlines never advertise their safety record, on the grounds that even to mention it might suggest the possibility of a crash. Similarly, a slimming device can never say: "We are not a nasty disease". The makers of the very tasty French aperitif Lillet would never deign to worry about the fact that, if you put a hyphen in their name, it becomes the name of an English female sanitary device. People with unfortunate surnames, from Raper to Snellie simply forge their way through life pretending that nothing has happened.

It's not so easy if you happen to have a trade name that is harmless at home but unfortunate in the export market, and I don't just mean Sean Connery, whose surname has undesirable overtones in France. Adrian Room, in his estimable *Dictionary of Trade Name Origins*, mentions several firms who have come a cropper overseas. Rolls-Royce found that Silver Mist was an unsuitable name for Germany, though not as unsuitable as Cons and Foden turned out to be in Portugal, where their products are marketed respectively as Acolon and Foden.

Meanwhile, if anyone has any evidence that the word *Moreover* is the trade name of a Brazilian rat poison or a slang term in Australia for something distasteful, a well-known brand of lavatory cleaner in the Philippines or particularly unmentionable word in Catalan, I would be grateful if he or she would not get in touch. (Answers to quiz 1, Hill. 2, Rice. 3, Reagan.)

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 99)



- ACROSS
- 1 Imagine (7)
  - 5 Bury (5)
  - 8 Swindle (3)
  - 9 Accomplished (7)
  - 10 Loose garment (5)
  - 11 Fright (4)
  - 12 Engine (7)
  - 13 Dance creator (13)
  - 16 Washing container (7)
  - 18 Ecstatic (4)
  - 21 Dign (5)
  - 22 Console (7)
  - 23 Zodiacal sign (3)
  - 24 Smelly (5)
  - 25 Exercise (5,2)
- DOWN
- 1 Luxurious (4)
  - 2 Bell sound (5)
  - 3 Memorably (13)
  - 4 Brilliance (5)
  - 5 Connecting wedding (13)
  - 6 Brownish (7)
  - 7 Missiles (8)
  - 13 Cold liquid (3,5)
  - 15 Unclear (7)
  - 17 Jazz (5)
  - 19 Prods (5)
  - 20 Discontinue (4)

## SOLUTION TO No 98

ACROSS: 1 Safari 5 Budget 8 Spa 9 Uproot 10 Snatch 11 Mesh 12 Mashhead 13 Shares 15 Cavity 17 Luddites 20 Mate 22 Absorb 23 Owing 24 Bum 25 Typify 26 Siena  
DOWN: 2 Aspley 3 Another 4 Inhuman 5 Basis 6 Death 7 Enchant 14 Flaubert 15 Customs 16 Vampire 18 Dhoti 19 Tabby 21 Twist  
(Solution to No 99 on Monday) Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise



## FRIDAY PAGE

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

## Renal policy attacked

A crushing indictment of the policy of many hospitals not to treat kidney patients over 55 comes in a fierce report from the renal unit at Guy's Hospital, London, published in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

Doctors there have been looking at the survival rates of older patients who have either had a transplant or access to some form of dialysis (kidney machine). They looked at 64 patients, all over 55, who were taken on at the unit from 1975 to 1981. Five-year survival of these patients was more than 60 per cent, well above other European and American figures - and shows that these patients can benefit from active treatment.

Although they accept that not all older patients will benefit, the Guy's doctors argue that their patients' survival rates cannot be exceptional. In other parts of the country the only reason for some units not to treat older patients is lack of money.

## Double trouble

Reports last week that the contraceptive pill may increase the chances of having identical twins if a woman becomes pregnant soon after stopping taking it took some experts by surprise. The announcement was made by Australian Pat Stewart, who with Dr David Macquart at the University of New South Wales has studied more than 2,000 sets of twins from Britain, Australia, Canada and the US.

They found that most twins born to women who took the pill within six months of getting pregnant were identical. This is a cause for concern, they say, because identical twins run a three to four times greater risk of congenital abnormalities than non-identical twins.

Professor Martin Vessey, professor of social and community medicine at the University of Oxford, however suggested that the Australian data may instead be illustrating a decline in the number of non-identical twins born to ex-pilars. This would make it seem as though the numbers of identical twins were on the increase.

## Asthma worries

The standard of care received by asthmatic children from family doctors is causing acute concern. Recent studies have clearly shown that too few patients seek and get help from their GPs when they develop a potentially dangerous asthma attack.

It has also been shown that a - usually unfounded - reluctance among GPs to label children asthmatic means that the disease is vastly underdiagnosed. Last week Dr Ian Gregg and colleagues at the department of primary medical care at the University of Southampton, added another fear to the list. Even when the GP recognizes the child's disease, they say, this doesn't mean they get the correct therapy.

When 51 children who had been treated for asthma at a health centre were examined by the group, signs of inadequate treatment were clear. Over three quarters said they still got asthma on running or playing games, a third lost sleep because they coughed and half still had to take time off school.

## First AIDS journal

Such is the volume of research and debate about AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) in the US that AIDS Research, a medical journal devoted entirely to the new disease, is to be launched next month.

According to Nature 20 per cent of all profits from the journal - which hardly seems likely to be unpopular - are to go to the recently set up AIDS Medical Foundation in New York.

Well over 1000 cases of AIDS, which leaves the victim liable to fatal infections and cancers, have been reported in America, mainly among homosexuals and drug addicts. The official US toll is 14.

**Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser**  
Olivia Timbs is editor of *Medicine* and Lorraine Fraser is science editor of *General Practitioner*.

## FIRST PERSON

I worked for a number of years for the national airline, Iran Air, in Tehran, until I could no longer endure it and recently sought refuge in Britain. The atmosphere of distrust created in government offices in Iran and the discrimination shown in favour of untrained zealots installed as spies are more unsettling than petty inspections of dress and appearance, but, coming in addition to the greater injustices, the pettiness can help to stretch one's nerves to beyond breaking point.

In the entrance halls of many office buildings are installed the "Islamic Sisters". The work of these women is to pull on the eye-lashes of female employees to make sure they are genuine, and to rub a wetted paper tissue against their faces to make sure no make-up has been

## A caring, sharing crisis

This year is the centenary of the

Co-operative Women's Guild, which

gave a voice to working women. Now

its members are mainly elderly and the

movement may not survive, as Jane

Wheatley discovered

On Wednesday about 3,000 guildswomen will gather for a picnic in the leafy campus of the Co-operative College in Loughborough. A casual observer could be forgiven for thinking it is some sort of grandmothers' get-together. Certainly the accent is likely to be on recalling past triumphs rather than on anticipating fresh challenges. For a movement that was once a major force for radical social change, the guild is sadly aging. For those who care about its future, the centenary provides not a cause for celebration, but a focus on the harsh reality of a steadily declining membership which means that when the current crop of septuagenarians die, the movement dies with them.

Born out of the Co-operative movement, (motto: Caring and Sharing), the women's guilds spread rapidly. They offered working class women a badly needed separatist forum and a voice. Guildswomen shopped loyally at the Co-op but were encouraged to wield their basket power to keep shopkeepers and management up to scratch. This early narrow preoccupation with home management and co-operative shopping quickly expanded and guildswomen were soon working alongside their sisters in the Women's Trade Union League fighting for equal pay and better working conditions for women.

Thanks to powerful leadership they won the battle for maternity benefit and, in a tiny but important shift of economic power, got it made payable direct to the mother. Their evidence, brought by the Commission on Divorce Reform and the thousands of letters that poured in from individual guildmembers represented the first substantial public expression from the female working class on the subject. They cam-

paigned for better maternity and infant welfare and for abortion reform, free contraception and the woman's right to choose.

Ethel Mewis joined the guild in 1937. "None of the battles was finally won then. And they aren't now," she says. "Especially not now," she added after a moment's reflection. "Women are being squeezed again. And the peace movement - that's come back with a vengeance, and with more reason than ever."

Ethel wore her white poppy - the guild's emblem of peace - before the Second World War. And she was one of the Women in Black who marched on Downing Street and Westminster after Hiroshima. "We were not supposed to wear banners outside the House of Commons. One of my fellow guildswomen ignored the rule, waved her banner and shouted 'Ban the Bomb' as loudly as she could. She was bundled inside and then sent to prison for the night. It was her greatest moment."

A practical feminist, local councillor, ex-Guide and active supporter of her husband's trade union activities, Ethel is proudest of her long association with the guild of which she is a former national President. She travelled to Russia for a month in the 1950s visiting and talking to women in the village cooperatives and has since investigated cooperation in most socialist countries - always reporting back to guilds on her return. She is watchful of the depredations of big business and big brother and vows she will die with her boots on.

Plain speaking, she once told a startled committee that she hated men. "I hate them for the way they abuse their power," she explains. Honest too, she admits the guild is



Sue King and Ethel Mewis: smiling at each other across the years

in a bad way. But the figures speak for themselves. The movement peaked in 1939 when, with 90,000 members, it was the biggest women's organization in the country. The war virtually halved the membership. It climbed again to 60,000 in 1951, since when it has dropped - by an average of 1,000 a year - to its present low of 11,000.

Ethel is at a loss to explain the guild's decline except to say that all women's organizations are losing members. "Women don't seem to need that special place outside the home so much any more. So many of them are out working all day anyway. Perhaps a lot of them feel that the things the guild fought for have been achieved."

Sue King is, in her thirties, one of the precious new breed. There are very few members between her age and those in their seventies - a frightening lack of mature guildswomen to replace a national executive whose average age is 70. A deliberate recruitment drive in the early 1970s led to the formation of Young Wives' groups alongside local established guilds where, it was hoped, youngsters would create their own forum from which they could gradually contribute to guild busi-

ness. Sue has proved excellent officer material, moving swiftly up the hierarchical structure of the guild and turning a polite cheek to remarks about her age and tenacity. She doesn't underestimate the scale of the task before her and her youthful contemporaries. "I looked round at the lined faces at Congress this year and I knew that unless we work very hard there will be no guild in 20 years' time. But there are a few, like me, who are convinced that it will survive. We had a young women's conference and we plan a mock congress later in the year - to get in training! We need to be controversial. To put up resolutions like the one from our group this year calling for equal treatment and acceptance of homosexuals in every sphere of life. We don't want to form a splinter group. We are proud of being guildswomen, proud of our heritage. But we need to force the issue, to make our voices heard at the top if we are to ensure the guild's survival."

Each year congress adopts a theme which delegates take back to their guilds for discussion and implementation. This year's theme, Women and the Health Service, is one close to Sue's heart. "We want more well-women clinics, we want

to halt this wasteful spending on proprietary drugs and persuade GPs to prescribe more generic drugs which are so much cheaper. We want - above all - to encourage our members and other women to question and improve the service but we don't act like them. Women, more than men, put doctors on a sort of pedestal. We need to take more responsibility for our bodies and to question and criticize. Only by individual women altering the way they respond to their doctors will we get the changes we want."

Ethel smiles and nods and applauds what Sue is saying. After a long successful career in the Guild she wants to believe that the tradition will be continued.

Perhaps "guild" is a bit old fashioned and off putting. "Sue shakes her head. "But I'm proud of being in the guild. I would like to keep the name. One thing we could do to help the present crisis is put the subscription up. It's an antiquated £3 a year. But exasperation in her voice. "Twice ever thus," she nods. And the two women smile at each other across the years.

*Caring and Sharing, the Centenary History of the Co-operative Women's Guild, by Jean Gaffin and David Thoms (Co-operative Union £3.50).*

John Carlin looks at the Mexican attitude to rape

## Where men are macho and women suffer

There's a saying in Mexico, "laws are like women: they're there to be violated". In Spanish, "to violate" and "to rape" are synonymous. The casual attitude towards rape of a great percentage of Mexican men makes it quite plain that women's liberation in Mexico is in the stone age.

The widespread view here of rape as a minor felony as a forgivable act of mischief is just the tip of the iceberg. Beatriz Suarez says. She is a closet, clandestine feminist who prefers to keep her views to herself in the severe government office where she works.

Not only are Mexican women grossly underpaid and usually overworked in comparison to men, they are also condemned to lives of almost constant childbearing, contraceptives being anathema to the "macho" Mexican man for whom the most tangible, status-conferring sign of his virility is a pregnant wife. Abortion is illegal, but nonetheless prevalent at a time of economic crisis in habitually impoverished Mexico.

The degree to which women were being sexually molested in the Mexico City underground reached such a point a few years ago that the authorities decided to segregate train carriages during the rush hour. Never, however, did it occur to them to punish the offenders, as one feminist writer observed. Between six and ten in the morning and five and nine at night, special barriers are put up on the way to, and along, station platforms, ensuring the sexes are kept apart inside the packed trains.



The statistics for rape demonstrate not only the degree to which a woman is treated as an object in Mexico, but also the legal impunity with which such an attitude is indulged. There are 80,000 reported cases of rape a year in Mexico against 21,000 in the United States, a country with three times the population, a figure considered by legal and feminist organizations to be 10 per cent of the actual number of rapes.

Only 1 per cent of the reported cases result in jail sentences. This is because Mexican law allows convicted rapists to go free on payment of bail, ranging from 1,500 pesos (£6.50) to 8,000 pesos (£34.50), and that both police officers and judges tend not to consider rape a crime worth serious investigation.

Carmen Lugo, a lawyer who works exclusively in defence of rape victims says: "The explanation is simple. A woman is not monied property, while a stolen car, for example, is."

A criminologist recently discovered that 8 per cent of rape victims are prepubescent, yet Mexico's laws do not demand longer prison term in rape cases involving minors. Neither do police officers

necessarily treat child victims with any greater sympathy.

In August 1981, Lugo handled the case of nine-year-old Hilda, who since the age of five had been consistently raped by her father, Gustavo Varela. Varela aged 68 at the time, had a record of having raped at least eight other women.

By no means one of Mexico's 12 million illiterate adults, Varela was an art consultant at the history museum of one of Mexico City's more historic landmarks, Chapultepec Castle.

Hilda became progressively more withdrawn, more physically damaged until finally at the age of nine, a female doctor discovered that she had a whole series of adult genital infections and distortions. The mother had her husband arrested.

But Varela knew that the judge he was dealing with had a price and a bribe of 100,000 pesos (then £2,500) duly saw that he was acquitted. Hilda meanwhile, was subjected to a gruelling interrogation at the police station. She was woken at 11pm, then lam and 5am by police officers bent on proving her father's innocence and when this had failed, on extracting a confession that she had seduced him - at the age of five.

"Hilda is psychologically devastated for life," Carmen Lugo says. "Her hips are chronically deformed and her mother Maria has pledged to kill her husband if she ever sees him again."

At the moment two women senators of Mexico's ruling party are trying to present a Bill in Congress reforming the laws on rape, making it impossible for a rapist to be freed on bail.

Carmen Lugo, a veteran fighter for women's rights in Mexico, sees little hope of it being approved. "While you have a society where it's common for a man who's committed a rape to be slapped on the back and bought a beer by his friends, then the chances of a crime against women's sexuality being taken with any seriousness are pretty remote."

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

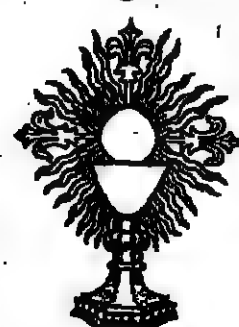
● The great British seaside, Part II: Alan Hamilton on how Eastbourne and Great Yarmouth are trying to reverse the holiday trend

● Sport: John Wilcockson follows the Tour de France

● Travel: Journey to the southernmost town in the world and Tierra del Fuego; California; boating on The Thames and how to get a Fare Deal



Sean Kelly, Ireland's hope



● The Oxford Movement - 150 years on

● Family Money: State of the unit trust market and front-runners in The Times/Money Programme Unit Trust Competition

Plus

The news from home and abroad. Values on the pick of regional products; Drink goes pink; Paperbacks of the month; the top gardening column; Critics' Choice of what's on in the cinema and on the stage; and a guide to the coming week's events in the arts.



# THE TIMES DIARY

## New grievances

Antonia Caccia's documentary *On Our Land*, about Arab grievances in Israel, shown by Channel 4 in March, plainly got under the skin of the Israeli government. Ghassan Fawzi Aghbariya, the Israeli Arab researcher on the film, was arrested on June 22 days before he was to take it on tour of the United States. On June 28 Hassan Jaharin, who appears in the film and was to take over the tour was also arrested. Last Friday Marwan Darwish Aghbariya, a cousin of Ghassan's, who had taken over the tour, was arrested in his turn and though he has been released while the others are still held without charge or access to lawyers, his passport has been confiscated. Four other Arabs connected with the film have also had their passports taken; three had previously been on speaking tours, but one had only been to Scandinavia on honeymoon.

## Fortress breach

The Government will, after all, be embarrassed by the publication of much of the report of the Commons foreign affairs committee on the Falklands, shelved because it was overtaken by the dissolution of Parliament. The staff of the committee have to provide a document of its unfinished proceedings. Usually this would provide bare details of times and dates, members present, and decisions taken in drafting the report. But large sections of the report will have to be published in the proceedings document for any sense to be made of the amendments. The draft conclusions, which cast doubt on the viability of the Falklands and whose disclosure in this newspaper led to a reference to the Committee of Privileges, will not be published. They were never reached in the final drafting operation.

## Prorogued

Having seen this Diary reprieved to its present marginal existence (geographically speaking) with help of readers' pleas for mercy, I never like to hear of Diary closures. Yet even I would not mourn the CID Diary, an intricate and time-consuming journal whose daily completion has long been the bane of detectives' and crime squad officers' lives. It will be abolished if this week's trials with simplified duty sheets are judged a success. If they are, its introduction will save £35,000 in printing costs and several thousand officer hours a week. I do not think I have anything to fear. No one would want to read a column headed "The Times Duty Sheet."

John Carlisle, the Conservative MP leading the campaign for an MCC tour of South Africa, says that my *Phisource* revelation that postal voting to date is running sixty to forty in favour does not mean that he has got the opposition stumped. He needs two-thirds of the votes to win and not to make that clear would, he suggests, hardly be cricket.

## Still standing

At a time when so many local authorities are closing down their public conveniences, I am relieved that the Department of the Environment has added to its list of buildings of architectural and historic interest the public urinal in Connaught Road, Silverton. It is in fact the last circular cast-iron urinal left in London.



BARRY FANTONI

## Shanks pony?

My invitation to the London opening of Maxim's de Paris arrived today, so it is time to tell you about the menu at Maxim's of Karachi (no relation), forwarded by H. H. Counts of Steeple Langford. Its temptations, in a brochure as lavishly worded as it is illustrated, include "king-size marinated prawn on screws", a "man-size fillet steak", "gushy Jambolaya" - served with a mug of hot Bovril; and veal shanks Milanese, served with grandmother's stuffed eggs. The apple pie looks suspiciously like chocolate cake, but then so does "orange fluff", and the sweet section ends with the challenge: "Can you resist everything...?"

A group of British town planners were earlier this month in France counter-attacking the Nord-Pas de Calais coalfield. Their interpreter was keen but not well up on the technicalities. "Do you have a French equivalent of Arthur Scargill?" asked an Englishman. "Arthur Scargill, qu'est-ce que c'est ça?" said a Frenchman. To which the interpreter replied: "Scargill."

Warsaw Embassies thrive on secrets, as bears do on honey. Not of course dramatic 007 international secrets - smuggled atomic blueprints, clandestine treaties with Bulgaria - but whispered village indiscretions that make the difference between a good cocktail party and a bad one. The best of these (the time the Ruthenian attaché lost his trousers, the cricket match that went wrong) grow into towering myths, become part of the oral history of a diplomatic mission. The British Embassy in Warsaw has a very special myth that centres on a tragic love affair, an extremely valuable search through scrapbooks and the back streets of the antique trade.

The story begins in Berlin before the First World War when a young British diplomat, Harold Beresford Hope, fell in love with a Polish woman. She returned his love, but it is safe to assume that there was some tension in the relationship: one day, Beresford Hope visited a palatial dance with another girl, was followed there by his Polish lover, who confronted him and promptly shot herself on the dance floor.

The diplomat was transferred (the standard response to scandal) to Athens. He died there in 1917 of typhoid, according to one story, having thrown himself out of the window in feverish delirium - and left a will which, in memory of his Polish lover, bequeathed the valuable Beresford Hope silver collection to the British legation in Poland, providing that such a mission was established in an independent Poland within five years of his death.

In November 1918, the second Polish Republic was established and the following year a British legation was established. The silver was transported, in accordance with the will, from Coutts' Bank to Warsaw (by cruiser to Gdynia and from there to the capital in a special railway carriage guarded by naval ratings). At this stage the collection comprised 176 pieces, most of it accumulated by William Carr Beresford, the illegitimate son of the Marquess of Waterford, who served heroically in the wars against Napoleon.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, the embassy was evacuated and the silver remained in heavy chests in the strongroom. But when the British returned after the war and opened the strongroom - the lock still perfectly intact and the combination unaltered - with the charge of affairs found that a hole had been bored in the back of the safe, and the collection, except for one mustard spoon, had disappeared.

The search was then on for the silver - no easy task, for Warsaw had been almost completely destroyed by the Germans. Every street had its mound of rubble. In the spring of 1946, the wife of the British ambassador made the first important discovery: among a heap of old bedsteads in a scapard she found a dish-cover bearing a British royal coat of arms. Thirteen more Beresford Hope dish-covers were unearthed and bought from the dealers for a small sum.

Slowly, reassembly of the collection began. Ice-pails were found at the London Antique Dealers' Fair in 1956. The New York police helped to track down a large venison dish.

## The love lorn legate's missing legacy

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the most forceful members of the Jewish lobby; he has consistently campaigned in favour of the US fulfilling Israel's defence needs, arguing that Israel is Washington's most reliable ally anywhere. When you meet him, Perle rarely displays his hawk's talons, at least not in any threatening way. He is charming personified. And he is very intelligent. A graduate of the University of Southern California, he went on to study at the London School of Economics, where he finally abandoned previously held liberal views on defence issues and became a firm believer in military strength as a means of maintaining international stability.

## Flowers of the Forest - £2 a bunch

As someone who lives permanently in the product, I'm happy to report it's in good nick. Edinburgh Castle esplanade is easing itself into its steel corset of Tattoo scaffolding and the Beaton Hotel is plotting to market little bits of themselves. Up Ayr way you've never seen such congregations of craft shops and the big-hearted tweed emporiums of Oban are feeling confident enough to sell Falklands wool.

The Queen's Speech? If your ears had blinked for a moment during its delivery you might have missed the reference to Mr Devereux's other source of jubilation. Responding to years of pressure from the Scottish tourist industry the Government has promised the STB a little bit of devolution. By agreeing to revoke a 1969 Act which allows the board to publish its own literature but prevents its distributing it overseas, the Government will unlock the fetters which, in matters of foreign promotions, have shackled the STB to the British Tourist Authority.

Legend, lore and fact concerning the neglect of Scottish interests by the BTA are almost as abundant as Scotland as ersatz tartans and Alan Devereux stunts. (One of his most eccentric involves a scheme to mobilize Scottish radio hams, turn them into propagandists and encourage them to laud the land of Laurier on the international airwaves.) The STB chairman himself, in an unguarded moment, once described the BTA as "bloody fools," and normally my conditioned reflex to the prospect of any form of power returned to Scotland would be twitching happily.

According to one chronicler of the story - Mary Henderson, wife of a former ambassador to Warsaw - the trail has included silver searches in Sweden, Holland, Italy and Israel and has involved arrests, secret meetings with dealers and money paid to friends of friends.

Today, most of the collection is still missing - only 26 pieces out of the 176 have been recovered - and the financial stringencies of contemporary Britain have meant that diplomats would not be authorized to buy any more Beresford Hope silver even if pieces were discovered in Warsaw's second-hand "commission" shops. The result is that the embassy has more silver dish covers than dishes to be covered.

It does, however, possess one of the most significant pieces in the collection, the silver-gilt Buenos Aires Cup. This was presented to William Beresford by Lloyds after he captured Buenos Aires in 1806. The moment of glory did not last long and Beresford had to escape from the city dressed as a laundry woman. The cup was displayed last month to mark the Queen's birthday: a reminder of a tragic love affair (though not exactly a high point in Anglo-Polish relations) and perhaps, too, of more recent military victories.

Roger Boyes

development of the feared SS20 intermediate-range missile. It is the SS20 which has provoked Nato into responding with its proposed deployment of Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles.

"I believe the purpose of arms control agreements is to produce enhanced stability at significantly lower levels of nuclear weapons," he says. "If they don't achieve that they are virtually meaningless and can even be dangerous."

To emphasize his point he notes that all the new weapons added to the arsenals of the US and the Soviet Union during the past decade have been acquired within the context of Salt 1. "The Soviets had 1,300 warheads on intercontinental ballistic missiles in 1972. They have about 6,000 now... this makes it difficult for me to understand the nostalgia for arms control."

Despite his scepticism about arms control, he believes it may be possible for the Reagan administration to negotiate arms reduction agreements once Moscow realizes that the US is definitely going ahead with its modernization programme and the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe and that "the alternative to an agreement is going to be worse for them."

At the moment Perle is bracing himself to go into battle once more against reaching any accommodation with Moscow for the sake of political expediency. The first battle will be over the European missiles. He is concerned that some members of the Administration, particularly "doves" in the State Department, may be prepared to settle for an agreement providing for a lower but unequal level of missiles in Europe. It was Perle who fanatically fought to maintain America's original "zero option" proposal - the elimination of all intermediate range land-based missiles.

The bigger battle will come next year when Reagan will come under heavy pre-election pressure to hold a summit meeting with Yuri Andropov and reach some form of agreement on limiting strategic weapons. "We will be asked to settle for an agreement that does not accomplish anything merely for the sake of obtaining an agreement," he says. "I hope and trust that this administration, which has set a higher standard for arms control agreements, will stand by that standard even in the face of pressure to lower it."

Perle will do his utmost to ensure that this standard - his standard - is maintained.

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Julie Davidson

## Trench warfare on the eastern front

Germany is, as always, the hinge on which East-West relations turn, and there is no better indication of what is really going on than the atmospherics of a visit by a Federal Republic Chancellor to Moscow. Helmut Kohl's trip this week has displayed a depressing but not at all surprising picture of almost complete immobility.

The Chancellor seems to have had two objects in mind in going to Russia. First he wanted, for his own political purposes, to blunt the edge of the accusation that he was putting the East-West dialogue begun by Brandt and Schmidt into cold storage. In this at least he has succeeded. Continuity has been established. His second, and closely related, purpose was to show the Russians that continuity is in an important respect broken. They are not dealing with a Social Democrat Chancellor whose party was split from top to bottom on most of the issues under discussion but with a Christian Democrat Chancellor who has just won a resounding electoral victory. Presumably this lesson has not been lost on the Russians either.

What else Herr Kohl can have hoped for from the visit is hard to see. Perhaps he has some faint hope that the Russians would have some concession to offer on the purely Soviet German front, if only to put him on the spot - half inclined to accept, half frightened of the reactions of the American Administration and his own right wing. In fact, of course, there was no sign of movement on any front at all, and the question is "why?"

As usual, there are as many different accounts of what is happening in Moscow as there are Kremlinologists, but they can be grouped into two broad categories. The first is simply that Yuri Andropov is too ill to take any serious new initiatives. In this the Andropov succession last year was, within strict limits, a promising turn in East-West relations. The new leader was beholden to the military, to be sure, but he had a separate power base - in the KGB.

His public utterances immediately after coming to power confirmed the impression of a tough pragmatist whose priority was to sweep away the corruption and economic muddle of the last Brezhnev years. His allies and mouthpieces, talking to westerners, implied strongly that he would be hard to bargain with on East-West issues but that a bargain of some kind could be made, for the simple reason that Andropov was not an ideologist.

But all reports from Moscow suggest that since about February, something on the internal scene has changed. The bustle has died away, the power struggle has silently resumed, the Andropov clients and allies are looking unsure of themselves. In short a Brezhnev-like atmosphere of impermanence and transition has returned.

On the assumption that it is a sudden collapse of Andropov's health that has caused this, we may expect the paralysis to continue. On the analogy of past experience, nobody in such situations, including the ailing leader himself, dares to take any risky decisions. Novelty and initiative give way to damage limitations - which can be defined, in many important spheres of action, as "not upsetting the Soviet defence establishment".

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Philip Howard

## A flight of fancy to Isfahan

Until last month I never paid much attention to the things. Carpets were what one covered the floor with; what we could not afford wall-to-wall; best in a dull brown colour so as to hide the stains of beagles and children; shabby. The difference between Axminster and Wilton was the difference between Cornflakes and Puffed Wheat; discernible but uninteresting. One sneered at the advertisements in the colour mags illustrating that new carpets in three shades of magenta were part of the good life.

Others rated them more highly. Henry James wrote a novel called *The Figure in the Carpet* - "Verker's secret, my dear man - the general intention of his books - the string that binds them together - the buried treasure, the figure in the carpet." But James was notoriously sensitive. Edgar Allan Poe wrote: "The soul of the apartment is in the carpet. From it are deduced not only the hues but the forms of all objects incumbent." Edgar Allan was notoriously potty.

For the past month it has been impossible to get away from carpets. There was an international carpet conference in London; one stumbled over oriental carpets in exhibitions all over town. The only thing to do was to go and have a look at what the fuss was about. And behold, the half was not told me. I suppose that we rude northern barbarians, who used to cover our floors with rushes to hide the excrement and dogs' bones, are expected to be ignorant about carpet matters. But the iridescent colours and intricate patterns from Ushak to Isfahan in the Hayward Gallery charm magic carpets, opening on the foam of perilous seas, and a newly discovered minor decorative art form.

I quite see what the painters from Mantegna to Holbein had put in the place of honour behind the Virgin or under the feet of the statesman. But there are a number of questions about the business that still puzzle me. I think we should be told: 1. How is it that these eastern carpets are to western carpets as Hyperion to a satyr? In particular, why do our carpets, with all the

The alternative explanation of what is now occurring does not deny that Andropov is under pressure, including from a health problem, but disputes that this has had much effect on Soviet policy. On this analysis, Andropov's premonition, though not yet established in dictatorial terms, is sufficient for him to push through a more flexible and adventurous approach to East-West questions if he really wanted to.

Even at the outset of his reign the Soviet "concessions" on SS20 deployment and the offer of a nuclear disengagement zone which were supposed to be signs of a new dawn, were in fact only tactical ploys. Andropov has never had the slightest intention of conceding that the western deployment of cruise and Pershing is a "catching-up" operation; he and his army allies are determined to retain Soviet weapons supremacy in the European theatre.

This might lead him to make some "quarter-way-house" concessions at the last minute on terms which left a sizable Soviet lead, but he is in no hurry to do this. Let the Germans sweat out their political row over the deployment of Pershings. The pandemonium that will break out in western Europe this autumn can do nothing but good to the Soviet cause in the long run. And besides, there is no risk in it. The visit of Coma Lauberdorf, the West German economics minister, and a team of West German economic and financial officials to Moscow last week was probably far more significant as well as satisfactory for the Russians than the Chancellor's because it confirmed that so far as East-West trade is concerned the West Germans are in the bag.

From a practical point of view it does not make much difference which of these two accounts is correct. The bottom line is that nothing will happen in East-West relations this year except at the most superficial level. Why, then, it may be asked, have the Russians suddenly begun to be more accommodating in the European security talks in Madrid and even agreed to a Spanish formula which would commit them to another spell in the human rights pillory in 1983?

The cynical - and probably correct - explanation is that it is an entirely tactical concession which breaks a long deadlock that had tarnished the Soviet Union's peace image. At the small cost of agreement to a watered-down meeting of experts on "human contacts" in three years' time, they have secured a conference on "confidence-building and disarmament" in Stockholm next January - a conference that will offer ideal opportunities for grandiose peace propaganda at exactly the moment when the cruise deployment storm is at its height.

All this does not mean that all is well in the Soviet camp. The absurd "anti-Williamshurst" summit of Warsaw Pact countries summoned last week showed distinct signs of strain. Nor does it mean that the West cannot survive next winter's ructions. What the general picture does suggest, however, is that we are in for a dreary period of sniping and trench warfare and that an early summit meeting between the well-meaning but incompetent Reagan and the decrepit but intractable Andropov would be dangerously delusive.

2. How long has this been going on? The experts assert that pile carpets from the East were quite probably known in Greece and Rome in classical times; but they do not sound very certain of their citations. Was the soft-piled rug in the palace of Helen and Menelaus in the *Odyssey* a kaleidoscope of blue and green and red from Egypt, where Helen had connexions? Was the crimson embroidered carpet on which Agamemnon trod on his return from the war something rich and rare imported from Troy? If so, he deserved what was coming to him in the bathroom for not taking his boots off.

3. What is this joke about the tails of animals? The carpets of the Mogul empire in India tend to a naturalistic rendering of plants and animals, often eating each other or indulging in a bit of jolly man-eating. But when the weavers get to the tails, fantasy takes over. A placid cow comes to a tail-end in a scorpion or a cluster of ten tails standing on end like the animals decorated with spots of a variegation not seen since the Garden of Eden.

4. I hope they were fun to make. I remember a terrible story, an old wives' tale, I hope, about a presentation carpet from the Shah of Iran. The knots were so small that they could be tied only by the fingers of small children, who had sat in succeeding generations for 20 years tying them.

5. Do I ever one? No, not I. I could not have the patience to take off my shoes and socks and wash my feet every time I came into the room. But I think one could write beautifully at a desk covered by an Ottoman table-carpet. One could put off for hours the ugly plunge of putting a clean sheet of paper in the typewriter, while one's eyes traced the infinite sinuosity and intricate symmetry of one's carpet.





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## THE MINISTRY OF HOPE

Only two years ago government provision of work and training for the young unemployed went under the designation "special programmes". They are special no longer. The word has disappeared from the Manpower Services Commission's alphabet of initials - so reminiscent in their way of that great outburst of emergency state activity in the United States during the Rooseveltian New Deal. And with that disappearance has gone any sense of measures being temporary.

Mass unemployment has made of the MSC a permanent administrative fact, a ministry of unemployment by another name. This latest outpost of the welfare state still grows (a budget of over £2 billion is contemplated for 1985), pushed by factory closures and company failures which cannot be denied by any amount of quibbling over exact unemployment totals or sneaking suspicions about black economy employment. The MSC has acquired a variety of roles: child-minder, tutor, forward-looking entrepreneur and, not least, vehicle of the state's compassion so eloquently expressed by Mr Geoffrey Holland, its director, in the aftermath of the 1981 summer riots. "If it had not been for us we should have had even more than we had: a lot of alienated, under-developed young people lost in a modern world."

Doubtless the MSC will be criticized during today's House of Commons debate on the sketchy training proposals contained in the Queen's Speech. A bureaucratic quango, its effectiveness hampered by its unwieldy tripartite form, the MSC is far from perfect. Yet, as long as it stands alone between an all too large number of adolescents and hopelessness, it is indispensable. The task for the Prime Minister and her Employment Secretary is to sharpen its role, to slough off that dreary pessimism which presides over so much contemporary social policy.

The MSC is, willy nilly, a charity mopping up the spillage of economic change, a social Elastoplast. It must be pushed into taking on an additional positive role. Britain is often said to have the worst-trained labour force of the advanced western European economies. In more precise terms too many young workers lack any skills, or possess the wrong skills, or have been trained in our rigid apprenticeship system and cannot bend or transfer their skills. The commission cannot be expected to rectify the failings of past generations. But it can, with the private sector's cooperation, identify the new skills required in an advanced economy; where the schools fail to provide the

preparation, the MSC must step in. Its New Technical and Vocational Education Initiative is unpopular among school-teachers only because of the criticism it implies of the too academic nature of the fare offered in the lower forms of the secondary schools.

At best there may soon be a tailing off in the growth of joblessness as the recession abates. Beyond is a murky vista where the already large pools of "structural" unemployment are replenished as British industry painfully adapts. In such circumstances who can resist the quip that Mrs Thatcher is the greatest collector since Mr Attlee under the MSC programme she has approved, every 16 year old in the land is accounted for: taking a job, staying at school or entering an MSC placement. That is unattractive reality and the Government should make a virtue of it. Now, more than ever, the MSC needs political direction: a steer in its new dealings with the schools, a perspective on its regional responsibilities, an imaginative pointer to the areas of future economic opportunity and the necessary training. For too long the MSC has been a political orphan, held at arm's length by ministers embarrassed at the demand for its work. It is time to bring it in from the cold.

## THERE IS STILL TOO MUCH MONEY ABOUT

Another disturbingly high increase in sterling M3 was recorded in June. The 13 per cent rise in this broad measure of the money supply is the latest in a series of bad numbers. Over the last four months sterling M3 has been growing at an annual rate of over 15 per cent, way above the official 7 to 11 per cent target range.

The function of money supply targets is to give the Government advance warning of future inflation movements. If the targets are being exceeded it should take action before the situation has slipped out of control. By the rules of the monetarist game, to which the Government is fully committed, it must now consider an increase in interest rates. If measures are not taken quickly, some observers may argue that the Government's anti-inflationary policies will lose credibility. The loss of credibility could itself complicate the future conduct of monetary policy.

But it is very difficult to claim that inflation is slipping "out of control" when the most recent figure for the twelve-month increase in the retail price index is 3.7 per cent and unemployment is over three million. Indeed, a strict monetarist, who believes absolutely and unreservedly in Professor Friedman's theories, finds himself in some intellectual embarrassment at present. Unemployment is much above that level - the so-called "natural rate" - at which wage settlements would be stable, implying strong downward

pressure on future inflation. But monetary expansion is far in excess of the recent growth rate of national money income, implying strong upward pressure on future inflation. Friedman is an exponent of both natural rate concept and the idea that the money supply and inflation are linked. Which analytical approach is right? Where, on present trends, is inflation really heading?

The intellectual quandary generates a practical policy problem. Although above-target money growth should in principle be countered by higher interest rates, this response could be quite inappropriate while the unemployment total stands at its present level and is still going up by about 20,000 a month.

Perhaps the safest conclusion is that there is so much slack in the labour market that several months of above-target money growth can be tolerated. The question "how many months can this continue?" inevitably requires the exercise of discretion by the Treasury and the Bank of England. It should be emphasized that very high rates of broad money growth have been experienced in recent years without subsequent inflationary damage. The reasons are not fully understood, but may relate to major institutional changes in the financial system. These changes are still proceeding and could cause further disturbance to traditional monetary relationships.

Although the case for an interest rate increase is not yet compelling, there can be no

doubt about the need for other, less drastic steps to rein back monetary growth. So far this year the Bank of England has not sold new issues of gilt-edged securities with particular aggression, perhaps because it wants savings to be channelled to the corporate sector rather than into government debt. These easy-going tactics must now be replaced by belligerent attempts to sell gilt-edged securities to investing institutions.

Such attempts will be more likely to succeed if the Government could demonstrate its determination to reduce public expenditure. Although several announcements of restraint have been made by spending ministries in the last few weeks, they have been rather miscellaneous in character. Mr Lawson's House of Commons statement yesterday, envisaging £500 million more asset sales and some tightening of control in the current fiscal year, was more coherent. However it was not particularly tough. The scope for action on public expenditure in the course of a fiscal year is limited, but more needs to be done if the Chancellor is to show that he has taken a firm grip on the Treasury machine.

The financial markets may not easily be persuaded that the Government's policies are strong enough to keep inflation falling in the long run. If there are one or two more months with sterling M3 increasing by over 15 per cent, a rise in interest rates will be difficult to avoid and the Government must not stand in the way.

## OPPOSITION IN ABEYANCE

Labour's refusal to act like an effective Opposition has taken a new and harmful form. The Labour whips have refused to nominate members to the Commons select committees until the party's leadership contest is settled in the autumn. Their Conservative equivalents have proved suspiciously accommodating. The fewer critical reports that trickle down to the chamber from the committee corridor, the happier the Cabinet will be. Unaccountable government is easy government. It is also bad government. When the parliamentary business managers of the two major parties show signs of excessive solicitude towards each other it is time to beware.

Since their birth in 1979, the all-party Commons departmentally-related committees have become increasingly sharp instruments of accountability and, occasionally, effective jennies of more open government. Many of the Cabinet minister and permanent secretary who has rused the energy and determination shown by Mr Norman St John-Stevens four summers ago in pushing

through his procedural reform when Leader of the House. How convenient that Labour's continuing civil war should put the committees out of action, albeit temporarily.

Defenders of Labour's sabotage have two arguments to offer. Convention requires front bench spokesmen to keep off select committees. The new Labour Leader will appoint a fresh team, several of whom, it is claimed, would have been select committee men and women had the system been reconstituted. Why cause avoidable disruption? The second argument is that the Labour whips need more time to haggle to ensure the party receives a fair share of select committee chairmanships. The breakdown at the end of the last Parliament was seven Conservative, six Labour and one Alliance. The Conservatives show signs of wanting more to reflect their numerical supremacy in the House.

The first argument is easily disposed of. There exists a swift and efficient mechanism for replacing select committee hands called to the front bench. The second is the kind of narrow

party politics that gives the place a bad name. In a rational world before leaving for their holidays, MPs would have agreed an agenda for the 1983-84 deliberations of their committees. There was research to commission and special advisers to recruit ready for a flying start in the autumn. More immediately, there is a stack of unfinished business left over from the last Parliament in the shape of near complete investigations, like the Education Committee's important study of public records policy. Such material cannot officially be released until the committees are once more in existence.

The select committees are a ready-made mechanism for effective, evidence-based scrutiny. They provide some of the raw material of opposition. A parliament with an exceptionally large government majority stands in special need of effective opposition. To wait until the autumn before establishing this means of providing it may suit the party managers, but it is a failure on the part of parliament itself.

## Musical form

From Miss Fiona Maddocks  
Sir, I fear your correspondents, Mr Richard Livermore and Mr Alfred Brendel (June 30), may have missed Roger Scruton's time for the delivery of his trills. They seem to believe that Mr Scruton is urging a return to a doubtful era of English music-making when Mr Brendel, playing Beethoven might have been banished to make way for the local choral society's repeat performance of "Blessed Pair of Sirens" and "A Vision would indeed

disturb the soul, but surely the burthen of Mr Scruton's article was rather different. His concern was with a more universal problem that has vexed artists of all epochs and all nations: how to integrate new ideas into the artistic tradition. This is the central question posed by Wagner in *The Mastersingers*. In the end it is not only the professional guild of Mastersingers but also the amateur citizens of Nuremberg who decide jointly to reject Beckmesser's dead rules in favour of Stolz's new inspiration. This is the sense in which amateurs make a musical culture. The Nuremberg community is shown to

be open to innovation. But within the structure of a tradition.

It is true that the years following the composition of *The Mastersingers* saw a change in Germany's political mood which led to that opera being used as a weapon of propaganda. But that should not blind us to its original artistic intention; otherwise we should be guilty of the "everything seems political" offence of which Mr Brendel accuses Mr Scruton. Yours faithfully, FIONA MADDOCKS, 32 Montpelier Grove, NWS, June 30.

## Constructive view of the police

From the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Sir, Mr Curran's article, "Why the police need politics" (July 6), refers to "Sir Kenneth Newman's inflammatory political intervention". I am reluctant to prolong an argument on this subject, but Mr Curran's distorted account of my views should be corrected.

The article focuses on one short passage in my report, as follows: "As an apolitical Commissioner I do not acknowledge the right of any person or group to advance proposals for change in the constitutional arrangements for the control and administration of the police. When the debate is restricted to the objective merits of the proposals for change, of course, there is no objection. Unfortunately, some proponents of change go further. They seek to boost their case by a campaign of deflected designation of the police."

The campaign includes unmoderated and unfair criticism of police performance against crime, zealous dragging for any occasion that be labelled as a cause of police, and tendentious accounts of complaints against the police - all bolstered by a variety of hostile broadcasts and given news coverage.

I think I can safely leave it to Times readers to decide whether that passage will bear the interpretation which Mr Curran has placed upon it, especially when it is read in conjunction with another passage in the same section of the report: "The police can only benefit from responsible and constructive criticism and I have every wish to encourage this. But no one gains when criticism is deliberately distorted. For this reason, among others, I welcome the introduction of consultative committees which should provide a more positive forum for the promotion of attitudes, perceptions and organisation to enable police and public to reduce crime together."

Yours faithfully, KENNETH NEWMAN, New Scotland Yard, Broadway, SW1, July 6.

From Mr Ian Haig

Sir, Your leader's assertion (June 30) that Hackney Council for Racial Equality (HCRE) makes a practice of publicizing cases of alleged police brutality as a means of exploiting local feelings and not providing details to the police is a gross distortion.

People have come to HCRE seeking help about alleged police excesses. Where they have wanted to complain to the police they have been assisted. Where they have not wanted to pursue it but have asked HCRE to record it, this we have done. The police, on the publication of our report on our experience, asked us for details of those cases they could not identify.

We said, No, because people who had come to us and given their details were not then to be disclosed to the police. You may find that strange or difficult to understand, but the fact is that many people in Hackney fear and distrust the police because of their previous experience at their hands.

We respect that confidence and are not going to start abusing it now. We stand by our report; our facts are authentic. We will not withdraw what we have said in our report.

Yours sincerely, IAN HAIG, Senior Community Relations Officer, Hackney Council for Racial Equality, 247 Mare Street, Hackney, E 8, July 1.

## NI contributions

From Mr Stephan Schattmann

Sir, The CBI, as your Industrial Correspondent reports today (June 28), have told the Prime Minister that once the National Insurance surcharge has been abolished the "next step" should be to lower employers' NI contributions. This is likely to lead to a reduction of the level of social protection expenditure, unless the shortfall will be made good by the beneficiaries - not the most realistic assumption, I submit.

And this in a country which employs less of its resources for this purpose than any other in the EEC: bar one (Ireland, with 23.4 per cent of its GDP, spent just one decimal point less than the United Kingdom's 23.5 per cent in 1981) and whose central and local treasuries contribute a far higher proportion than elsewhere in the Community, again with the exception of Ireland (I am ignoring Denmark, where income tax provides more than fourfifths of all expenditure). But most significantly, all our Continental competitors in the EEC, whose economic performance does not tend to be inferior to that of this country, have to carry a higher share of employers' contributions than British industry. In Italy it was 72 per cent, Belgium 28 per cent, Germany 16 per cent, Netherlands 7 per cent and Luxembourg 3 per cent. The criticism of the implied excessive share of NI contributions is of long standing. It is as relevant to the belief proclaimed for years, but found incorrect, that Britain's level of direct taxation was higher than anyone else's.

Yours faithfully, STEPHAN SCHATTMANN, 65c Wigmore Street, W1, June 28.

## Colour conscious

From Mr Charles Miskin

Sir, Mrs Sutherland (July 4) is right - size is everything: the daffodil-coloured canvases must be parked in the blooming fields of oil seed rape. Yours etc, CHARLES MISKIN, 2 Temple Gardens, Temple, EC4, July 4.

## Second thoughts on death penalty

From Mr James Stanton

Sir, It was, presumably, in the ordered calm of counsel's chambers that John Allott, QC, composed his letter (July 2) deploring the restoration of capital punishment. Murder to him and to the signatories of that initiative is, I deduce, an academic subject. It relates to a brief from solicitors, interviews with an accused now on his best behaviour and reasoned argument in a court of law.

To others the crime of murder may impress differently. As a former police officer, it is now some twenty-odd years since I last stared down at the face of a murder victim. He was a shopkeeper strangled with piano wire in the furtherance of theft. Memories of other murder circumstances are still vivid: a policeman with his throat cut from ear to ear, a body blasted with a shotgun at close range, hideous injuries inflicted by axe; visits to the mortuary, post-mortem examinations; the smell of death; and, inevitably, the anguish of the victim's relatives.

In those days I believed, as I still do, in the wisdom extolled by the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Goddard, when he said: "Murder is a crime sui generis - it stands by itself, the man who commits the supreme crime should pay the supreme penalty". But in fairness to contemporary murderers it would be quite wrong to restore capital punishment without revising all the provisions of the Homicide Act.

As a result of this legislation far too many killers who have murdered with malice aforethought or in the course of a criminal enterprise are acquitted of murder and dealt with for so-called manslaughter; and in some instances these killers are awarded sentences which are derisory. Thus it would be unjust to introduce a system whereby one monstrous brute went to the gallows whilst another, equally monstrous, left the dock rejoicing in his good fortune.

John Allott and his friends, however, need not worry unduly about the restoration of the death penalty. Our politicians are not particularly renowned for perception and resolution. A move towards restoration is, I predict, a lost cause.

Yours faithfully, JAMES STANTON, 7 Romney Close, Birmingham, July 4.

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, Whilst nobody in this country would want to see the so-called "people's courts" to be found in some Communist countries, still less lynching or mob law, it is important, if the general public is to have confidence in the administration of justice, that the penal system should in some measure reflect the general public sentiment. And there is little doubt that retribution is an element in the popular conception of justice and must be given some weight in sentencing policy. Yet few amongst us would, if it came to the point, be willing personally to cast the first stone. And it must be wrong to be content that others should do vicariously in our name what we would not be willing to do ourselves.

But my own view about the death penalty is the consequence of severely practical rather than ethical considerations. As one who, when at the Bar, had appeared on the instructions of the Director of Public Prosecutions in a number of murder

cases and occasionally for the defence, I became convinced that the death penalty was rarely, if ever, a deterrent, that its existence always led juries to be much more hesitant in convicting guilty men than they would otherwise have been and that the general effect of its administration was seriously anti-social.

Official material which was available to me when I became Attorney General in Mr Attlee's Administration (1945-50) confirmed me in this view and I believed that total abolition was the correct course. Although I introduced into the House of Commons a Bill providing for degrees of murder I did so with the utmost reluctance and only after being persuaded by the then Prime Minister and Home Secretary not to resign as I would have preferred to do, for I was then and now remain by experience the more convinced that it is quite impracticable to define degrees of guilt in that way.

But all that was long ago and since the abolition of the death penalty the murder rate has gravely increased and the lives of very many innocent victims have been taken, often in shocking circumstances which have caused us all the utmost loathing. I confess that I have been gravely concerned about the correctness of my own view that the death penalty is not a deterrent. Yet calm examination of the statistics shows that the increase is, at least in the main, in those classes of murder which, under the proposals now being canvassed, would in any event not attract the death penalty.

It remains true that the deliberate murderer who premeditates his crime does so in the conviction that he will not be caught. And with the knowledge that even if things go wrong and he is arrested the chances of a not-guilty verdict are much in his favour.

It would be deplorable if we were now to join the totalitarian countries in reimposing a death penalty which, with only one other exception, all the countries in Europe have long since renounced. The necessary element of retribution should be provided by a mandatory sentence of 20 years' imprisonment with no provision for the parole after a comparatively short term which sometimes offends public sentiment now.

Yours faithfully, HARTLEY SHAWCROSS, House of Lords, July 5.

From the Bishop of Chichester

Sir, The Royal Commission on Capital Punishment said: "the ambition that prompts an average of five applications a week for the post of hangman, and the craving that draws a crowd to the prison where a notorious murderer is being executed, reveal psychological qualities of a sort that no state would wish to foster in its citizens."

This comment, along with the fact that some people have been convicted and some hanged for murders that they had not committed, needs to be given great weight when capital punishment is defended on grounds of retribution.

In my opinion these two considerations settle the matter, particularly as there is no conclusive argument from deterrence. Yours truly, HERIC CICESTR, The Palace, Chichester, July 6.

## Home truths

From Mr H. William-Olsson

Sir, In our neighbourhood there are hundreds of flats for sale, none to let. The tenants of sitting tenants, many of them elderly people living in basements, must obviously be protected, but if the Rent Restriction Act were to be cancelled for all new agreements the following advantages would accrue:

A vast number of homes in London and elsewhere would very quickly be available. Young couples would not have to burden themselves with large debts at exorbitant interest in order to find a home. They would be mobile, as young people should be, and, paying for their homes out of current income, the demand for building society loans would fall drastically. Consequently the interest charged by these societies would have to come down - an important factor in the fight against inflation.

Furthermore, as owners of houses

would have an incentive to maintain their properties in order to let successfully, the vast capital locked up in large Victorian houses would be saved from the present disgraceful decay. Employment in the building industries would be stimulated.

It is astonishing that when we want to find a home the state deprives us of the elementary human right of citizens freely to negotiate agreements to their mutual advantage. As so often, the denial of freedom leads to cruel results.

Some years ago I tried to find a small bed-sitting room for an elderly ex-Serviceman. I failed because only foreign students could be relied upon not to stay on for ever. My friend, quite capable of looking after himself, was forced into an old-age home, an unwilling burden on public finance.

Yours faithfully, H. WILLIAM-OLSSON, 11 Fawcett Street, SW10, June 28.

## Drug offenders

From Mr Hugh Pierce

Sir, P. J. Barlow, writing as a former British Consul, (June 24) suggests that the ratification of prisoner transfer treaties and the repatriation of offenders such as John Du Cane would undermine the efforts of governments in developing countries to suppress traffic in narcotics. The suggestion is surprising in the light of Thailand's readiness to ratify treaties with the USA, Canada, France, Spain and Italy. His suggestion has no support from drug-enforcement experts in the USA.

Our own Government is dragging its feet and on this basic humanitarian question its signature to the Convention is long overdue.

Mr Barlow asks whether we can with consistency allow John Du Cane to serve a shorter sentence in a British jail and at the same time support efforts to suppress the drug traffic. The answer is yes, of course we can. Mr Barlow's implication that only by allowing an addict to remain in a Thai jail for over 30 years do we adequately signal our own abhorrence of drug trafficking is itself horrendous. Yours etc, HUGH PIERCE, 11 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6, June 28.

## At the nursery end

From Mr Peter Waine

Sir, This year - a not untypical one - a mere handful of spectators turned up daily to watch the Varsity match at Lord's. If in the height of summer, in lovely weather and at the home of cricket, such a large percentage of those present are players, how can the continued staging of the event at Lord's be justified?

The truth, which seems to be unpalatable now only to a handful, is that the universities are no longer a sufficient attraction; their performance is unspectacular even against counties fielding their weaker teams and they have long ceased to be a nursery for the England eleven.

If the perpetuation of the event is on the grounds of tradition, then I suggest that more traditionalists support the event; otherwise the traditionalists' case will be even more vulnerable, the continuation of the event even less defensible and the prevention of genuine first-class cricket at Lord's at the end of June even more scandalous. Yours faithfully, PETER WAINE, Oak Tree Cottage, 108 Elmfield Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, July 2.

## Joint approach to social policy

From the Director of the Family Policy Studies Centre

Sir, Peter Hennessy ("Whitehall brief", June 21), rightly emphasised the need for government to be "briefed in a fashion that raises their sights above day-to-day preoccupations". The Government's decision to axe the Central Policy Review Staff, the "think tank", therefore has implications for all areas of government, but it is particularly serious for social policy.

In 1975 the CPRS in a notable report advocated a joint approach to social policy, arguing for "improved coordination between services as they affect the individual", and better analysis of, and policy prescriptions for, complex problems - especially when they are the concern of more than one department. This plea from the CPRS was not before time because increasingly, from the late sixties onwards, social issues and problems have been discussed in ways which do not match bureaucratic structures.

Several examples of the disbenefits of a disjointed approach to social policy come from the field of family policy. The division of responsibility for the under-fives between the DHSS (concerned with welfare) and the DES (focusing on education) has, for example, contributed to a failure to develop the right mix of provisions which is best suited to contemporary family and working patterns.

Similarly, the combined effect of a host of means-tested benefits introduced by several government departments over many years has produced a complex and often incomprehensible system of income support which then interacts in often unpredictable ways with the tax and National Insurance systems. This complexity leads to a failure to claim benefits by many needy families and the well-known problem of the poverty trap.

A further example is provided by the ageing of the population, certainly one of the major social challenges facing Britain. If we are to provide adequate care and support for an increasing number of frail elderly people - the number of persons over 75 will increase by some 900,000 between 1975 and the year 2000 - we need a joint approach across Whitehall, encompassing social security, health and welfare, housing and taxation policies.

Social policy is too important to be left to spending departments alone or to the Treasury. If needs are to be met, and if we are to receive value for money, we need a greater emphasis on social planning and strategic thinking in the light of changing family and work patterns that are now such a prominent feature of British society.

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM WICKS, Director, Family Policy Studies Centre, 3 Park Road, NW1, June 29.

## Nuclear skeletons

From Mr Steve Howell

Sir, Under the heading, "Pact of Secrecy", your leader on June 30 commented that "the Warsaw Pact, unlike Nato, is not an alliance of independent states which can reach important political decisions only after long debate and public discussion."

On the opposite page a feature article described the history of the Nato decision to site cruise missiles in Britain and stated that "All British governments have kept nuclear matters with extreme secrecy". The fact that most of the Labour Cabinet, like most of the public, knew little or nothing of these debates and decisions says a good deal about the internal politics of the Labour Party and the obsessive secrecy of British government in general.

Perhaps we should put our own house in order - or get out of Nato. Yours faithfully, STEVE HOWELL, 139 Scott Road, Sheffield, July 1.

## Stirring the odium

From the Director of Church Society

Sir, Clifford Longley's plea (feature, June 27) for a more lively approach to theological journalism is to be welcomed. The Council of Church Society has sought to fulfil this aim in its reorganization of *Churchman*.

Far from seeking to "play it safe" and avoid upsetting people, as Mr Longley suggests, the intention is to escape from the stagnation of consensus, in which every view must be balanced and neutralized (?) by its opposite, and to give some bite to the society's publication by the clear expression of the biblical principles underlying evangelical Protestantism.

Am I right in thinking that this will supply the "hint of odium theologium" that Mr Longley is looking for? Yours faithfully, DAVID SAMUEL, Director, Church Society, Whitefield House, 186 Kensington Park Road, SE11, June 27.

## Wayward water

From Mr Colin Bishop

Sir, How very appropriate that a variation on the plughole effect theme should have been resolved for us today (July 6) by a professor from the University of Bath. Yours truly, COLIN BISHOP, Holly House, Woodville Road, Trincham, Cheshire, July 6.







## Investment and Finance

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THE TIMES

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## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 891.0, down 5.6.  
FT 100: 80.33, down 0.15.  
Bourse: 20,020.  
Datastream USM Leaders  
Index: 95.85, up 0.13.  
New York Dow Jones Average  
(midday): 1,213.84, down  
6.81.  
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones  
Index: 9,015.78, up 30.83.  
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index:  
1,033.39, up 16.98.  
Amsterdam: Index 149.4, up  
2.8.  
Sydney: A O Index 811.4, up  
8.1.  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank  
Index: 988.30, up 18.4.  
Brussels: General Index:  
129.28, up 1.5.  
Paris: C A C Index 128.1, up  
1.6.  
Zurich: S K A General 288.9,  
up 0.8.

## CURRENCIES

**LONDON CLOSE**  
Sterling \$1.5380 down 10 pts  
Index 85.1 unchanged  
DM 3.9650 down 0.01  
FF 11.8900 up 0.0250  
Yen 370.50 up 1.25  
Dollar  
DM 2.5770  
Index 125.7 up 0.1  
**NEW YORK LATEST**  
Sterling \$1.5390-1.5405  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU 20.573822  
SDR 20.593932

## INTEREST RATES

**Domestic rates:**  
Bank base rate 9½%  
Finance houses base rate 10½%  
Discount market loans week  
fixed 9½-9 3 month interbank  
10-9½%  
**Euro-currency rates:**  
3 month dollar 9½-10  
3 month DM 5½-5¾  
3 month FF 14½-14¾  
**US rates:**  
Bank prime rate 10.50  
Fed Funds 9½%  
Treasury long bond 91 30/32  
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling  
Export Finance Scheme IV  
Average reference rate for  
interest period June 8 to July 5,  
1983 inclusive: 9.876 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am  
\$414.25; pm \$412.25  
Close \$412.00  
New York latest: \$412.25  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$24.00-25.50 (\$275.50-  
275.50)  
Sovereigns\* (new): \$98.50-  
97.50 (\$275.63-50)  
\*excludes VAT.

## TODAY

**Interim:** Capital Reserve  
Fund, TSL Thermal Syndicate.  
**Finals:** Braham Miller Group,  
James H. Demmis, Executives  
Clothes, Fuller Smith & Turner,  
Highgate Optical & Industrial,  
Stonehill Holdings.

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

**Buckley's Brewery,** The  
Ryebuck, Cwmbria, Swansea  
(10.45).  
**Fidelity Radio,** Portman  
Inter-continental, Gloucester  
Suite, 22 Portman Square,  
London W1 (11.00).  
**First Castle Electronics,**  
Waterford Mill, Darwen, Lancs  
(noon).  
**Inchcape, Queens Room,**  
Baltic Exchange, 14/20 St Mary  
Axe (noon).  
**Lynton Holdings,** 1/2  
Mason's Arms Mews, Maddox  
Street, W1 (noon).  
**Morgan Crucible Company,**  
Institute of Directors,  
116 Pall Mall, SW1 (11.30).  
**Sellinco, the Albany Room,**  
White House, Albany Street  
(Albany Street entrance), NW1  
(11.00).

## NOTEBOOK

**Chartered Consolidated** has sold 2.5 million shares in Minorco for \$12.81 each, to raise about £20m. The sale reduces its stake in Minorco from 9.3 per cent to 7.9 per cent. But the deal should not be seen as closely connected with Minorco's recent lowering of its holding in Phibro-Salomon.  
**F. H. Lloyd Holdings,** one of Britain's largest steel casting and foundry groups, yesterday reported losses of £4.8m last year, compared with pretax profits of £309,000 the previous year. Despite extensive rationalization, the foundry industry is still in trouble, the board said.  
**Granada Group** reports a 12 per cent drop in interim profits, and says that the large contributions being made to Channel Four are partly to blame.

## BP and Britoil marked down on City fears

## Treasury expected to raise £500m with sale of quoted shares

By Graham Searjeant

The Treasury is to raise another £500m in special asset sales in the current financial year to help bring the burgeoning public sector borrowing requirement nearer to the £28bn forecast at the time of the Budget.  
Although neither Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor nor the Treasury could say how this was to be done yesterday, the City was already assuming that the Government would take the easiest route by selling further tranches of shares in companies already quoted on the Stock Exchange. But government sources discount this idea.  
BP shares, up to 430p early in the day, traded as low as 418p

after hours on the Stock Exchange and Britoil, up to 226p earlier, closed at 214p.

The Government could raise the extra £500m by selling about 7 per cent of BP shares from its 39 per cent holding.  
However, this would absorb cash from the big City institutions at a time when the Government has an equally pressing need to sell them more gilt-edged stock.

Until yesterday, the Budget allowed for only £750m from special asset sales this year. That figure included £290m from the second payment for Britoil shares, already received.  
The booked sales of the

British Gas Corporation's oil interest would easily have made up the remainder.

The Wyth Farm oil field in Dorset was expected to raise a minimum of £200m, although some of that might be spread over future years. The British Gas stakes in six North Sea oilfields are thought to be worth £350-£500m.

The Government has already announced further privatization measures, which would dwarf immediate needs. British Telecom alone could be worth £2bn to £3bn. British Airways and Royal Ordnance factories are also worth large sums on their own.

However, it would be difficult to bring forward such big sales from their existing target dates - autumn 1984 in the case of British Telecom and 1985-86 for British Airways.

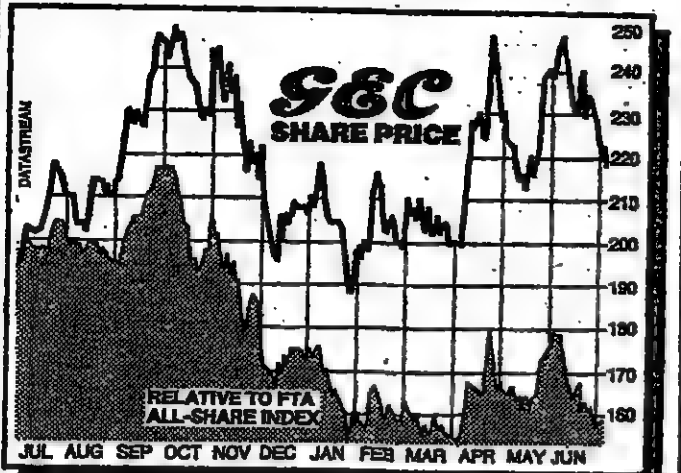
Legislation has not yet been put through Parliament for the privatization of either British Telecom or the Ordnance factories.

However, there are plans to sell off smaller chunks of assets and parts of nationalized industries and state-controlled companies, which might be brought forward into the current year.

High on this list are subsidiaries of B.L. such as Unipart,

Jaguar and Land-Rover; more pieces of British Rail such as the recovering Sealink ferry business; the defence and ship repairing activities of British Shipbuilders; parts of British Steel and the National Bus Company and individual airports owned by the British Airports Authority.

The Chancellor's 2 per cent cut in the external financing limits of the nationalized industries will wipe off £57m from the state companies' borrowings after the £200m cut last autumn. The reduction for individual industries will be calculated on the basis of annual turnover.



## Cash mountain lifts GEC profit to £670m

By Philip Robinson

GEC, Britain's largest company, making almost as much from its cash mountain as from mainstream businesses.

For the year to March 31 last, pretax profits rose almost 15 per cent to £670m on a turnover up from £4.9bn to £5.46bn.  
Almost a third of profits came from its traditional electronics and telecommunications businesses, but a further £178m was earned as interest on its capital. That was boosted by £300m during the year and stands at £1.319 bn.

GEC's group profits were in line with the expectations of stock market analysts, who got the overall picture right but were out on the individual contributions.  
The biggest surprise was the dull performance - compared with rivals Plessey and Ferranti - of electronics, up just 6 per cent to £224m.

However, analysts are looking for an understanding £775m pretax profit for the current year and for just below the £1bn profits level in 1984-5.

GEC says business has been good since the year end, and sees further improvements

coming from America which provided more than a third of the £90m overseas profit contribution last year.

In Britain, there should be better results from the diesel side this year. As part of the industrial division, margin pressures was a major factor behind that division's being alone in failing to improve profits. The figures dropped from £44m to £31m although turnover increased from £359m to £392m.

GEC's best improvement came from the consumer products division. It includes Osram lamps, Hotpoint and the loss-making Schreiber furniture maker which has since been sold. Profits there rose from £11m to £19m.

GEC is paying its 156,000 shareholders a 17 per cent dividend increase this year.  
Analysts are still playing guessing games over what GEC will do with its mountain of cash. The group is still looking for that big acquisition, probably in America, and hints that if the cash levels remain high there is the possibility of buying in some of its own shares.

## Europa Hotel deal gives US group a British stake

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Grand Metropolitan's Europa Hotel in Grosvenor Square, Mayfair, the group's flagship hotel until it took over the Intercontinental chain, has been sold to Marriott, one of the top three up-market hotel operators in the United States. The deal is thought to be worth around £14m.

It gives Marriott its first foothold in Britain after an eight-year search. After Hyatt moved into the Carlton Tower Marriott was the only big international chain without a property in Britain.

The sale is a surprise because although Grand Metropolitan put six more of its hotels on the market in April the Europa was not among them and Mr Stanley Grinstein, Grand Met's chairman, indicated that was the end of its disposal programme except for a possible sale in Europe.

But Grand Met would have been faced with considerable spending on the Europa to put it

firmly in the five-star luxury category, its natural slot as a prime Mayfair property. Marriott intends to spend "millions of pounds" on the extensive renovation including the creation of 66 suites which will reduce the number of rooms from 285 to 245.

Mr Terry Barlow, operations vice-president for Europe and the Middle East, said:  
If the Europa, which is a leasehold property, has been bought at around the going rate of £50,000 a room it would probably leave at least £3m headway for renovation spending and still allow for a conservative average year-round return of £70 a room.

The Europa, which will become the London Marriott and swell Marriott's European hotels presence to four, is unlikely to be the group's last British venture.  
Mr Barlow said: "We find when we are installed in a country that other opportunities come along".

possible buyers of an aircraft that Britain has rejected is that it is able to deal with customers which Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department would not be able to insure.

Rumania, with its urgent need to develop new industries and fresh sources of hard currency is prepared to accept risks which advanced western nations would not take.

It is also selling to customers who are not so bothered about noise levels.

British Aerospace had to set up offices in the Intercontinental hotel in Bucharest its executives to handle the large variety of Rumanian-made goods taken in exchange for the knocked-down kits of BAC 1-11s that are being locally assembled.

From the 22nd aircraft onwards, however, all parts will be made in Rumania. Its agreement covers the building

## US likely to check recovery

From Bailey Morris Washington

Speculation is rife here that the Federal Reserve Board will move next week to increase the cost of funds to banks to push up short-term interest rates and slow the pace of recovery.

Reports in both the *Washington Post* and in the newsletters of leading brokerage houses that the US discount rate would be raised by one-half to 8.5 per cent drew a strong response from the White House.

Mr Larry Speakes, the chief White House spokesman, issued a statement to influence the central bank's policy by stating the Administration's "strong opposition" to a rise in the Federal discount rate.

"We do not want to see the discount rate raised. We think money supply growth can be brought back into line slowly, using other money control mechanisms than the discount rate," he said.

The conviction has been growing for the past two weeks on Wall Street that because of the strong recovery and continuing sharp increases in the money supply, the Federal Reserve has little choice but to tighten credit to prevent a resurgence of inflation.

The powerful open market committee of the US central bank, faced with a recovery many analysts fear could speed out of control, will meet on Tuesday. It is widely expected to raise its growth by taking a policy decision to allow interest rates to rise.

## WALL STREET

## Shares fall then steady

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks were broadly lower yesterday, but showed signs of steadying.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell five points to 1,215. It had been down eight points earlier.

Declining issues were seven-to-five ahead of advances in active trading.

American Telephone & Telegraph at 62½ was down ½. International Business Machines was 121½, down ½. General Electric at 53½ was up ½. General Motors at 70½ was up ½. Coca-Cola at 48½ was up ½. Teletype at 166½ was up ½. Exxon at 34½ was down ½. Ford at 54½ was up ½. Procter & Gamble at 56½ was up ½. Honeywell at 113½ was down 1½. and Rehm & Hass at 76½ was up 1½.

Union Pacific was up ¼ at 57½. Northwest Airlines was down ½ at 51½. Digital Equipment was down ½ to 117½. Sears Roebuck was down ½ at 40½. R H Macy was up 1 at 58½. and Monsanto was down 1 at 86½.

Government coupon securities prices fell sharply in reaction to a report in the *Washington Post* quoting Federal Reserve sources saying the Fed is likely to raise the discount rate soon.

## Tighter credit for developing nations

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Tougher credit conditions for borrowing countries, especially in the developing world, are revealed in the latest banking statistics from the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements published today.

Reporting on developments in the second half of last year, the BIS figures show sharp reductions in unused credit facilities available to borrowing countries.

Total unused credit commitments fell from \$106.4bn (£69bn) at the middle of last year to \$91.3bn at the end of last year with particularly sharp falls in unused facilities available to Asian and Latin American borrowers.

Latin American unused commitments slipped from 13.1 per cent of their total borrowings at the half-year to 8.4 per cent by the end of last year. The BIS says that at mid-1978, when the figures were first compiled, the proportion was 24.7 per cent.

During the second half of last year Latin American borrowers drew nearly \$10bn from the international banking system of which about \$5bn represented new loans - mainly for Brazil - and the rest reflected a \$4.9bn reduction in deposits with international banks.

The BIS figures also show how banks reduced their short-term exposures to Latin American borrowers last year in reaction to the problems of Brazil, Mexico, Argentina

and Chile. But it does raise the question of whether this is the time for Mr Sterling to wear two hats - one as a key member of the P & O board hoping to persuade the commission to come to a certain decision; and the other as adviser to the Minister who is, ultimately, responsible for deciding what action to take on the commission's recommendations.

There is no question that anyone would behave with anything but the utmost propriety but it nevertheless threatens to be an

unfortunate coincidence of timing.

Whitehall is plainly aware of this and next week's statement, when it comes, will make clear that Mr Sterling will have absolutely nothing to do with the P & O bid and the Monopolies Commission's investigation, will be denied access to all the paperwork, and will not be privy to any of the meetings.

The net result then is that though the appointment might raise a few eyebrows, this is one occasion when it is reasonable to allow Mr Sterling to do both jobs, as the safeguards for all concerned seem perfectly adequate - to say nothing of the fact that there are few enough businessmen of Mr Sterling's calibre around for them casually to be debauched.

But in spite of these safeguards the issue is made more complex by Mr Sterling's evident arrival on the scene and his personal interest in the future of P & O. One of the reasons why the City was tempted to welcome Trafalgar House - if not the price it was prepared to pay - was that its management was seen to be more aggressive than that of the shipping group.

But if Mr Sterling is prepared to merge part of his business into P & O and, thereby, bring into the company several of the key executives who have laboured with him so effectively in restoring Town and City to health, then the City might feel that P & O itself has access to a management team which could do as much for the group as Mr Brookes.

The more one thinks of these two head to head in a bid battle, the more enthralling the prospect becomes. One is almost tempted to hope that the Monopolies Commission, does give the bid clearance and leaves it to the market to decide.

Sterling service, page 17

Unigate

Year to 31.3.83

Pretax profit £43.7m (£38.2m)

Stated earnings 14.1p (13.8p)

Turnover £1,882m (£1,504m)

Net times dividend 4.3p, making 8.6p (8.5p)

Share price 115p, up 3p Yield 8.4

Dividend payable 3.10.83

sterning added about £900,000 to overseas profits. US record ahead from £5.7m to £10.5m.

The dairy business, still comfortably the biggest profit earner, pushed up profits by £2m to £32.7m

## GRANADA GROUP

Results for 28 weeks ended 16 April 1983 (unaudited)

	1983 £000	1982 £000	53 weeks ended 2 October 1982 £000
Turnover	261,783	229,942	459,932
Trading surplus for period (note 2)	65,371	55,860	115,297
Depreciation—rental assets	30,906	23,035	47,046
—other assets	6,601	5,530	11,204
Interest payable	6,845	3,415	8,814
	44,352	31,980	67,064
Trading profit before employee share scheme, taxation and minority interests	21,019	23,880	48,233
Employee share scheme (note 6)	—	—	1,178
Profit before taxation (note 2)	21,019	23,880	47,055
Taxation	12,577	13,686	25,526
Profit after taxation	8,442	10,194	21,529
Minority interests	—	83	204
	8,442	10,111	21,325
Earnings per share (note 7)	5.1p	6.1p	12.9p
Dividend per share (note 8)	2.1p	1.92p	5.28p

1 The results are prepared under the historical cost convention.

2 Turnover is up by 14 per cent, and trading surplus by 17 per cent, on the corresponding period last year. Depreciation is 31 per cent higher and interest payable has doubled, reflecting the Group's development programme and expenditure on rental assets. As a result, profit before taxation is 12 per cent below 1982. The outcome for the year as a whole is likely to show a similar pattern.

3 The results have been adversely affected by lower profits from UK television rental due to increased depreciation and interest charges; substantial increases in payments to the IBA particularly for subscription to Channel 4; poor underwriting results by our insurance company in Brussels. Improved results are shown by our overseas rental operation, bingo social clubs and motorway service areas.

4 In the period the Group sold Granada Publishing and received a total of £8.7m in cash. The surplus arising from the sale of shares is not included in the period's results and will be dealt with as an extraordinary item in the Annual Accounts.

5 During the period expenditure incurred on new rental assets in the UK and overseas amounted to £50m (1982—£60m).

6 The amount that may be allocated to the Employee share scheme will be dealt with by the Board when the results for the financial year are known.

7 Earnings per share 5.1p (1982—6.1p) is based on earnings of £8,442,000 (1982—£10,111,000) and on 166,345,031 Ordinary and 'A' (limited voting) Ordinary shares being the average number in issue during the period (1982—165,574,637).

8 An interim dividend of 2.1p per share which, with the related tax credit equals 12½ (1982—11½), an increase of 9½ and amounting to £3.5m (1982—£3.2m) will be paid on 1 October 1983 to shareholders on the register at close of business on 26 August 1983.

9 The abridged income statement for the 53 weeks ended 2 October 1982 is an extract from the latest published accounts which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies; the report of the auditors on those accounts was unqualified.

Alex Bernstein, Chairman  
7 July 1983



GRANADA GROUP PLC 36 Golden Square London W1R 4AH



31st JULY 1983 REDEMPTION

## TRANSALPINE FINANCE HOLDINGS S.A.

### U.S. \$20,000,000 6¾% Loan 1985

## REDEMPTION OF BONDS

Transalpine Finance Holdings S.A. announces that for the redemption period ending on 31st July 1983 it has purchased and cancelled bonds of the above Loan for U.S. \$150,000 nominal capital and tendered them to the Trustee.

The nominal amount of bonds to be drawn for redemption at par on 31st July 1983 to satisfy the Company's current redemption obligation is accordingly U.S. \$1,025,000 and the nominal amount of this Loan remaining outstanding after 31st July 1983 will be U.S. \$2,375,000.

## DRAWING OF BONDS

Notice is accordingly hereby given that a drawing of bonds of the above Loan took place on 21st June 1983 attended by Mr. Keith Francis Croft, Baker of the firm of John Venn & Sons, Notary Public, when 1,025 bonds for a total of U.S. \$1,025,000 nominal capital were drawn for redemption at par on 31st July 1983, from which date all interest thereon will cease.

The following are the numbers of the bonds drawn:

117	141	203	205	211	270	283	298	299	315	317	330	402	903	906	910	913	1157	1161	1164
1168	1169	1176	1180	1182	1183	1185	1192	1198	1200	1202	1204	1205	1218	1229	1231	1237	1238	1271	1272
1338	1345	1474	1680	1801	1831	1839	1894	1946	2065	2067	2072	2111	2120	2121	2122	2191	2194	2196	2211
2212	2215	2218	2251	2262	2352	2370	2373	2377	2379	2381	2387	2390	2435	2458	2460	2609	2613	2623	2625
2642	2644	2647	2650	2653	2657	2659	2661	2662	2665	2666	2672	2673	2678	2749	2759	2762	2804	2807	2811
2817	2820	2851	2880	2918	2924	2949	2963	2973	2994	2999	3009	3066	3098	3099	3164	3242	3244	3245	3251
3271	3272	3280	3284	3326	3327	3332	3336	3344	3345	3353	3364	3365	3396	3400	3401	3442	3473	3478	3507
3508	3617	3619	3650	3744	3754	3756	3797	3897	3903	3951	3953	3954	3955	3959	3964	3969	4051	4186	4188
4325	4331	4518	4543	4546	4547	4660	4703	4786	4835	4917	4994	5088	5095	5098	5103	5104	5108	5110	5114
5120	5122	5124	5130	5132	5139	5143	5148	5150	5159	5164	5165	5168	5171	5179	5180	5190	5191	5193	5194
5195	5199	5206	5207	5209	5211	5217	5221	5229	5230	5235	5237	5242	5244	5263	5264	5274	5275	5276	5278
5279	5289	5294	5299	5318	5323	5328	5337	5343	5345	5347	5348	5351	5376	5463	5506	5561	5562	5637	5638
5642	5647	5650	5653	5654	5659	5661	5693	5713	5716	5842	5862	5885	5887	5901	5902	5905	5908	5910	5933
5934	5940	5942	5949	5951	5957	5962	5964	5969	5972	5974	6008	6010	6060	6118	6292	6327	6486	6489	6493
6522	6526	6528	6531	6533	6535	6558	6559	6773	6779	6780	6785	6811	6904	6927	6928	6934	6935	6938	6945
7011	7021	7030	7167	7327	7345	7347	7348	7349	7351	7352	7353	7354	7355	7356	7357	7358	7359	7360	7361
7569	7578	7584	7585	7625	7630	7633	7635	7639	7645	7646	7651	7652	7653	7654	7655	7656	7657	7658	7659
8084	8086	8087	8088	8089	8102	8104	8105	8109	8116	8129	8131	8147	8153	8157	8160	8171	8175	8341	8361
9322	9343	9368	9379	9398	9467	9541	9545	9555	9556	9570	9573	9638	9688	9689	9697	9707	9806	9811	
9824	9900	9990	10130	10156	10193	10415	10527	10530	10531	10563	10564	10625	10643	10661	10798	10814	10833	10883	10908
11003	11004	11084	11091	11092	11296	11399	11404	11547	11551	11553	11554	11555	11556	11745	11859	11862	11865	11866	11867
11871	11878	11879	11880	11881	11882	11896	11899	11979	11980	11981	11982	12000	12107	12132	12133	12134	12158	12242	12259
12264	12265	12272	12282	12315	12317	12319	12597	12608	12610	12647	12769	12926	13019	13020	13030	13032	13035	13090	13094
13095	13448	13472	13488	13471	13475	13476	13477	13492	13502	13505	13508	13569	13571	13580	13607	13616	13620	13623	13629
13631	13633	13650	13706	13748	13750	13753	13758	13773	13776	13801	13814	13836	13842	13852	13891	13997	13998	14053	14061
14063	14125	14178	14198	14200	14249	14314	14315	14318	14320	14327	14328	14331	14346	14347	14366	14367	14369	14384	14385
14386	14393	14414	14416	14423	14428	14433	14443	14463	14467	14469	14476	14693	14700	14743	14753	14797	14798	14803	14812
14817	14823	14825	14830	14850	14852	14865	14873	14875	14891	14899	14900	14901	14906	14907	14913	14916	14918	14924	14925
14926	14930	14932	14933	14936	14943	14944	14953	14954	14955	14967	14968	14970	14974	14977	14984	14986	14988	14988	14993
14998	15018	15025	15034	15042	15043	15048	15064	15066	15076	15077	15089	15097	15103	15104	15105	15107	15127	15129	15139
15146	15148	15153	15163	15165	15171	15173	15175	15181	15182	15185	15189	15191	15196	15202	15203	15205	15207	15230	15238
15244	15245	15247	15251	15264	15267	15268	15271	15279	15280	15294	15295	15296	15302	15305	15308	15318	15319	15322	15329
15339	15340	15341	15350	15361	15362	15370	15371	15372	15377	15378	15396	15429	15440	15443	15470	15479	15486	15497	15500
15592	15603	15680	15687	15706	15708	15711	15735	15826	15857	15859	15864	15875	15902	15905	15921	15924	15927	15940	15954
15958	15959	15967	15972	15973	15983	15990	15993	15998	16014	16015	16040	16043	16050	16054	16056	16057	16058	16065	16069
16079	16082	16089	16094	16098	16105	16109	16111	16112	16115	16117	16118	16121	16123	16125	16130	16134	16136	16142	16143
16307	16321	16322	16331	16336	16337	16387	16389	16421	16423	16432	16435	16438	16445	16455	16459	16462	16464	16467	16479
16483	16484	16487	16498	16500	16504	16581	16582	16584	16586	16587	16594	16607	16613	16620	16631	16638	16642	16644	16661
16663	16666	16686	16696	16732	16736	16740	16765	16773	16793	16815	16819	16845	16846	16849	16869	16875	16882	16883	16902
16911	16922	16923	16945	16970	16978	16982	16987	16990	16991	16992	16995	16996	16997	16998	17057	17058	17071	17074	17075
17136	17137	17171	17190	17191	17373	17426	17476	17590	17610	17742	17754	17804	17819	17829	17838	17885	17890	17893	17907
17974	17978	17987	17998	18020	18041	18064	18108	18110	18115	18148	18151	18161	18163	18170	18173	18179	18181	18188	18188
18189	18200	18202	18237	18239	18287	18288	18290	18313	18316	18346	18353	18381	18382	18388	18391	18394	18396	18398	18403
18432	18433	18437	18449	18450	18451	18456	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468	18468
18567	18568	18578	18579	18581	18606	18608	18609	18610	18611	18612	18613	18614	18615	18616	18617	18618	18619	18620	18621
18717	18719	18721	18722	18729	18736	18746	18747	18751	18761	18762	18770	18774	18777	18783	18784	18785	18786	18788	18794
18804	18811	18813	18832	18835	18836	18868	18872	18874	18879	18889	18902	18903	18906	18909	18924	18926	18927	18934	18937
18938	18946	18959	18961	18962	18965	18970	18981	18984	18987	18989	18991	18993	18996	19019	19020	19021	19023	19040	19042
19044	19047	19048	19079	19080	19081	19122	19162	19182	19188	19195	19197	19246	19306	19312	19313	19315	19317	19323	19328
19334	19335	19339	19349	19384	19451	19570	19589	19593	19598	19600	19601	19609	19695	19702	19703	19704	19707	19711	19712
19717	19730	19761	19765	19819	19825	19826	19829	19846	19847	19848	19853	19889	19892	19897	19949	19956	19981	19987	19975

Witness K. F. C. Baker, Notary Public.

The above bonds may be presented for payment of the proceeds of redemption at par on or after 31st July 1983 at the offices of the paying agents named on the coupons in the manner specified in Condition 5 of the Terms and Conditions of the Loan printed on the bonds. Each of these bonds when presented for redemption must bear the coupon dated 31st July 1983 and subsequent coupon, otherwise the amount of the missing coupons will be deducted from the principal to be repaid.

Principal Paying Agent: N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited, New Court, St. Swinburn's Lane, London EC4P 4DU. 8th July 1983

## APPOINTMENTS

## New group chief for Wimpey

GEORGE WIMPEY: Mr. Nelson Oliver has become a group managing director with responsibility for the British construction division. He has also been appointed chairman of Wimpey Construction UK and continues as chairman of Wimpey Homes Holdings.

CAMREX HOLDINGS: Dr. John Roberts, group managing director of Rubenoid, has been appointed chairman in succession to Mr. Stanley Clarke who has resigned.

RACAL RADAR DEFENCE SYSTEMS: Mr. Barton Clarke has been chairman.

FALCON RESOURCES: Mr. R. T. Rennie has been made a director.

ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION: Mr. M. P. Abbott, chairman of The Hogg Robinson Group, has been appointed a director.

CBI EUROPE COMMITTEE: Mr. Michael Stewart-Smith, chairman of Taylor of London, has joined the committee.

COATES BROTHERS: Mr. Robert Jordan has been appointed a director.

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES: Mr. Roger Wain has joined the board as a non-executive director. Mr. T. J. Bowen has taken up an appointment overseas.

ROBERT M. DOUGLAS HOLDINGS: Mr. F. W. Carter has become deputy chairman in place of Mr. C. Marston who has retired.

OCEONICS GROUP: Mr. Bruce Mallard has joined the board of Oceonics Equipment Services with special responsibility for developing its Scottish interests.

LINKED LIFE ASSURANCE GROUP: A new chairman and committee for 1983/4 have been elected. Mr. Ralph Sepel, chief executive of Albany Life Assurance Company replaces Mr. John Woolhouse as chairman. Mr. Woolhouse, who is chief executive of Lloyds Life Assurance, continues as an ex-officio member of the committee. Other committee members are: Mr. Paul Bradshaw, Skandia Life; Mr. Peter Connor, Premium Life; Mr. Frederick Dimmore, Cornhill Insurance; and Mr. Edward Fairman, Merchant Investors Life.

JOHN FINLAN: Mr. T. S. Jamieson has been made non-executive chairman in succession to Mr. J. Finlan, who becomes deputy chairman. Mr. G. C. S. Ames relinquishes his position as deputy chairman and remains group managing director. Sir Hugh Fraser and Mr. J. Mallory join the board in a non-executive capacity, and Messrs W. P. Hetherington and F. C. Farrell resign from the board but remain with the company.

## Joint action needed for recovery, EEC told

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

A master plan for a European economic recovery by the 1990s was presented to the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday by its joint authors - M. Michel Albert, the left wing French economist and Professor James Ball, the right wing British economist.

Drawn up at a cost of £7,200 as a reference document for the parliament in preparing its own European economic recovery programme next year, the 128-page report criticises the welfare state, petty nationalism, protectionism, trade union attitudes and government policies.

The authors are most scathing of all about the EEC. "The word Europe can only be used in an ironical sense. In







\* Classification. F Ex Property. & No scrip or share split. t  
 \* Free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No  
 nificant data.



INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Michael Prest

# Minorco preparing for expansion

Conspiracy theories about Mr Harry Oppenheimer's works abound, but strange to say the proximity of Minorco's sale of part of its stake in Phibro-Salomon and Charter Consolidated's sale yesterday of part of its stake in Minorco may not be a cunning plot.

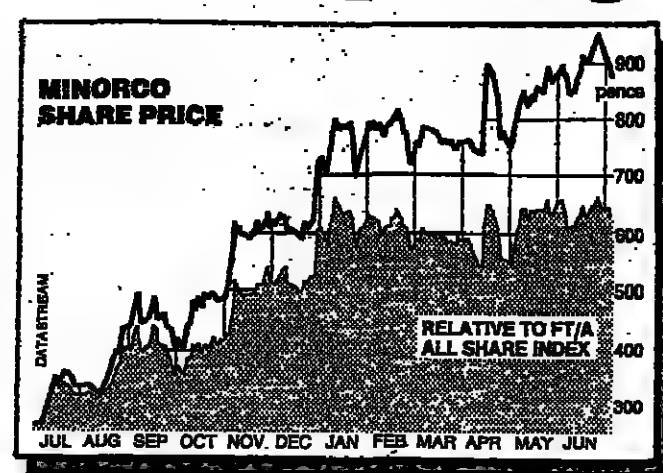
It is true that each operation has Minorco as its focal point, and it is equally the case that no development at Minorco is without a long-term purpose. Nevertheless, both transactions can be sensibly explained by the needs of the separate companies. Minorco cut its Phibro holding to 22.3 per cent because it needed the \$207m. The paradox is that while Minorco's many holdings - all equity accounted - make it rich in earnings and assets, the cash flow is small because most of its investment pay low dividends.

The cheques from Amamint, for example have halved. Hudson Bay, which is in the throes of a complex reorganization with Plateau Holdings and Trend International, has not paid any dividends for some years, and even the mighty Phibro is expected to pay the same this year as last.

Much the same considerations apply, ironically, to Charter reducing its Minorco stake from 9.3 per cent to 7.9 per cent.

Charter will find the £20m realized handy, but more important is the diminution of a holding which yields next to nothing while constituting a fifth of assets.

Tax also plays a part, and Charter might well have wanted



MINORCO SHARE PRICE

RELATIVE TO FT/ALL SHARE INDEX

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

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## F H Lloyd

F H Lloyd Holdings

Year to 24.83

Pretax loss £4.8m (£309,000 profit)

Stated earnings 1.8p (2.2p)

Turnover £38.5m (£70.2m)

Net final dividend 1p same

Share price 30p up 2 1/2p

Share price 30p up 2 1/2p

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he saved the club from  
liquidation. During Mr. Watters' ad-  
ministration as chairman Dixie have  
been out of the news. They  
were absorbed in a prolonged  
dispute with Bradford City over the  
services of Roy McCurdie and his  
assistant Mick Jones from Valley  
Road to the Baseball Ground. The  
signing of John Robertson from  
Stirlingham Forest was another















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## Spending cuts hit defence and NHS

Continued from page 1

manpower targets in the National Health Service, by seeking economies in less important expenditure, and by cutting the drugs bill.

He admitted these measures would impose additional strains on the health service, but was confident that changes would be made "sensibly" during the rest of the financial year.

Capital spending by local authorities is exempted from the cuts. The Government wants programmes to be maintained to sustain the construction industry.

Mr Lawson faced furious criticism in the Commons from Opposition MPs not only for his cuts but because they said he and his colleagues must have known what was in prospect during the general election campaign and concealed it to deceive the voters.

Among his own backbenchers he earned some credit for taking corrective action early enough for it to be easier to implement than if left to the autumn.

The opposition pressed in vain for Mr Lawson to say when and on what evidence he made his decision. The answer is that evidence of two unwellcome trends accumulated steadily during the first quarter of the year.

First, demand was rising for a number of entitlements not subject to cash control, including agricultural support, the new housing benefit and family paratransit services.

Second, Treasury expectations of a shortfall of some £1,200m on cash-limited spending were not being realised. Departments have evidently learned better how to spend up to the limits without overshooting.

It was also made clear yesterday that a large part of Mr Lawson's purpose was to convince financial markets of his firmness. His view, which his Cabinet colleagues accepted, was that any slackness in checking excess spending and borrowing might have led to an early further rise in interest rates which would have endangered recovery.

Financial markets reacted with a marked lack of enthusiasm to Mr Lawson's statement. Worries about the proposed unspecified £500m of asset sales depressed shares and government stocks.

Business News, page 15



The new Cabinet at 10 Downing Street yesterday. Back row (left to right) - Mr John Wakeham, Chief Whip; Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture; Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment; Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal; Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales; Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment; Mr

Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services; Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Transport; Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet. Front row (left to right) - Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence; Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of

the Exchequer; Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary; Lord Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council; Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister; Lord Hailsham, Lord Chancellor; Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary; Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science; Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy; Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland.

## The gospel according to St Michael

By John Lawless

It turned into the jolliest of punch-ups when Marks and Spencer, Britain's biggest retailer, faced its shareholders at the annual general meeting yesterday.

First it was bare-knuckle stuff. Why had the directors given themselves such large pay rises, bringing their remuneration last year to £1.8m?

Lord Sieff, M & S chairman, who is 70, is long used to such fistfights. "Directors pay has gone up 97 per cent in five years, compared to a 96 per cent rise in dividends. I apologise for the discrepancy."

A rib tickler: Why does the M & S board have more directors (now 19 of them) than Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet?

Lord Sieff: "We were a board of 24 and we have gradually reduced over the years. Unlike many companies, we don't have directors of subsidiaries. But we hope to reduce, gradually reduce in

size - without being unfair, to people."

A spare-rib tickler, from a lady who asked: "Why is there not a single woman on the table in front of me?"

Lord Sieff: "That omission is totally shared by me. I am sorry. We don't want one token woman director but there is nothing to stop them. We have found that our training of women that we hoped to reach the board was too narrow. But we have taken active steps."

Mrs Ruth Smith, he added had joined the board of the Canadian company in the past year, was doing excellently.

Lord Sieff: "We were a board of 24 and we have gradually reduced over the years. Unlike many companies, we don't have directors of subsidiaries. But we hope to reduce, gradually reduce in

size - without being unfair, to people."



Lord Sieff: long used to fistfights

socks, instead of packs of three?

Lord Sieff was puzzled: "We have single or triple packs. There is no case where bachelors, whatever their age, cannot buy single pairs."

A rabbit punch: "Why don't M&S shirt collars last as long these days?"

Lord Sieff was amazed: "I wear nothing except our shirts. We are the largest seller of

shirts in this country (40 per cent of total UK production) and our sales continue to increase."

Another punch: Why do M&S ties have such bad designs, when John Lewis's are good?

Lord Sieff, without admitting his source of neckwear: "I must say I largely agree. I thought we had made some progress - although by tomorrow the selector will doubtless be down at John Lewis's."

A body-blow: Why are the Canadian stores equipped with fitting rooms, when the British stores are not?

Hitting back where it hurts most

Lord Sieff called Dustin Hoffman to his defence, proclaiming him to be M&S's best customer for suits, and the leader of a popular band which, if given changing rooms, would consume a quarter of the floor space at its Marble Arch store. That store,

he added, had just got into the Guinness Book of Records, for selling more suits than any other shop.

Other old favourites came up, too: why was the shareholders' meeting attended by so many older people? Lord Sieff, for once, could not supply a proper answer.

A gentleman who said he was a physician helped out "these people are the only ones available at 11 on a Thursday morning", he volunteered.

Such professional advice went down well. As did the news (among the foot-sore, who complained about too lengthy queues), the M&S is considering a major change in policy and re-examining the question of accepting credit cards.

But Lord Sieff hit back where it hurts shareholders most. Such a move "could reduce profits."

A final point cheered everyone: The declaration of dividends - 5.1p.

Much clapping of hands.

## Frank Johnson in the Commons

# Unkind cuts which will run and run

Mr Nigel Lawson, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, appeared at the dispatch box yesterday to announce £500m worth of cuts in budgeted public spending.

This was all rather sudden. Until the morning, hardly anyone had expected that this was to be a traditional cuts day. Presumably, the Government considered it important that the information should not be leaked in advance to that lot of sensationalists: the Cabinet, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson did not want any lurid accounts of the attitude which the two of them have towards the welfare state to be blazoned across the front pages of the spending ministries' briefs.

The Opposition parties claimed outrage, both at the statement's suddenness and its contents. The Labour Party insisted that history would have been different had such things been made known before the general election. So far Labour, it was a case of "Election null and void - Official. This will be their attitude to the result for the remainder of the Parliament."

"It is plain, four weeks later, that a disgraceful fraud and swindle has been perpetrated," cried Mr Peter Shore, the Shadow Chancellor.

"Is this not a remarkable coincidence that this real truth should be revealed exactly four weeks after the election?" asked Mr John Morris, the Labour member for Aberavon. "In the commercial world, people are put behind bars for issuing false prospectus like this," Mr Lawson quickly thought up a reply that obviously pleased him, but his understanding of the commercial world was that people were put behind bars for spending more than their budgeted expenditure rather than keeping to it.

This did not deter the Labour Party from keeping up the cry, "Now we know why the Government out and ran, in the form of Mr Dennis Skinner. His question then wandered off into a discussion of whether Mr Lawson knew about 'this looming catastrophe'."

Mr Lawson seemed at home with them all. He is different from previous Chancellors in his qualifications for the job. He knows a lot about economics. In due course, we shall learn whether this makes any difference.

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## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

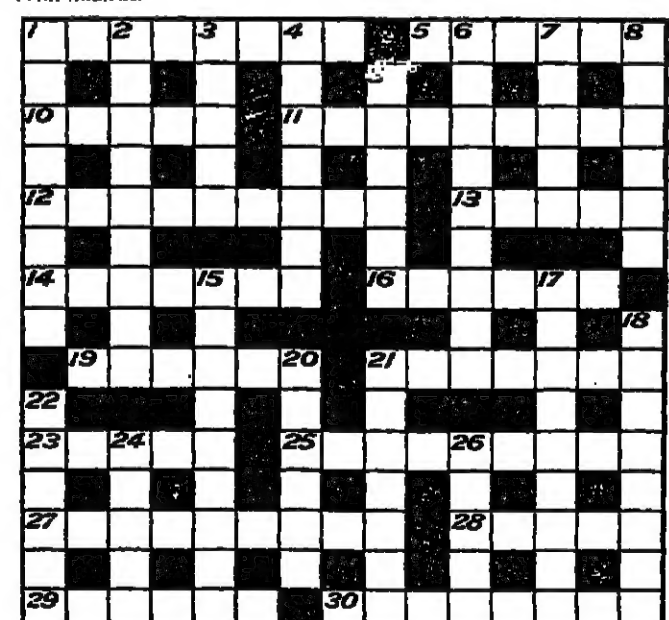
### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of Edinburgh University, confers honorary degrees at the University, arrives Medical Quadrangle, 10.40.  
The Prince of Wales, Chairman, The Prince of Wales Committee, visits projects in Gwynedd, arrives Bangor station, 9.45.  
The Princess of Wales opens new

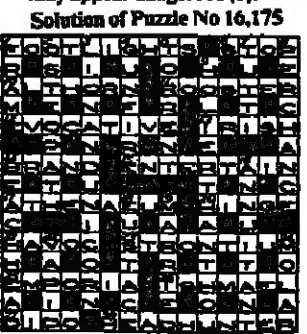
**Fisher Price factory, Peterlee, Co Durham, 12.55.**  
The Duke of Gloucester opens extensions to County Hall, Beverley, North Humberside, 11; arrives Beverley Friary, 2.20 and Beverley Minster, 2.40.  
The Duke of Kent, Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conferences (UK Fund), attends the North of England Study Conference, Salford University, Greater Manchester, 11.

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,176

This puzzle, used at the Bristol regional final of the Collins Dictionary's Times crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 8 per cent of the finalists.



- ACROSS**
- 1 Stable conditions required by his consul designate? (8).
  - 5 See me backing horse entered in Derby, for example (6).
  - 10 National leader once hidden by flags (5).
  - 11 Occasional butt from goat following girl (5, 4).
  - 12 Scoundrel leading current stoppage in part (9).
  - 13 Poplar's Liberal entering a working alliance (5).
  - 14 Source of appeal that isn't answered? (7).
  - 16 A sort of din, in short (6).
  - 17 Divided into parts by grammarians (6).
  - 21 Girl as model, or some had perhaps (7).
  - 23 Have these bones one point in common? (5).
  - 25 Firm decisions made here to embark into space (9).
  - 27 Writer - or forger (8).
  - 28 Out I see you are pronounced out of order - that's rare (5).
  - 29 Dear to work second shift in T-shirt (6).
  - 30 Potboy who succeeded girl in shebeen (8).
- DOWN**
- 1 Squeeze applied in Health Service (8).
  - 2 A certain trick to produce a rise for everybody (4, 5).
  - 3 Beau getting magnanimous sign from French (5).
  - 4 Club for boatmen with one in front holding pole (7).
  - 6 Safeguard rare metal (9).
  - 7 Stone dam perpetually producing water (5).
  - 8 Knight's follower also has a tale to tell (6).
  - 9 Terrible employer, Peter of Thomas (6).
  - 15 Jams round motorway may lead to certain arguments (9).
  - 17 Devils-on-horseback found here, song speak? (9).
  - 18 Ancient philosopher making annual appearance (3, 5).
  - 20 Small fellow booked, somehow not like his creator (6).
  - 21 Eccentric, turning up Her Majesty on a foreign coin (7).
  - 22 John was such a clever statesman (6).
  - 24 Capital invested in 1857 (5).
  - 26 Why, we hear, supporting bones may appear dangerous (5).



CONCISE CROSSWORD, PAGE 10

### Exhibitions in progress

**Capability Brown and the Northern Landscape.** Laing Art Gallery, Highgate Place, Newcastle upon Tyne: Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30 (until July 31).  
**Rupert Bear, original drawings by Alfred Bestall.** Maplin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until July 17).  
**Twentieth Century People: Portraits Drawings and Prints.** Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until July 24).  
**Home Comforts** by Graham Crowley: Bomb, Beaver and Fossil by Bill Woodrow: New Blood on Paper, drawings by five young artists: Painters' Debutants and related work 1925-43 by Hans Jean Arp. Museum of Modern Art, Pembroke Street, Oxford: Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until July 31).  
**Harvest of Bristol.** History of Wine Collection, Central Museum, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex: Mon 2 to 5, Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (until July 23).

### Music

**Guitar recital** by Stefania Grondino, St Albans Cathedral, 1.  
**Choral concert** by Arlington Christian Choir of Los Angeles, Canterbury Cathedral, 12.  
**Concert** with James Galway (flute) and Robert White (tenor) with London Chamber Orchestra, Chichester Cathedral, 7.30.  
**Concert** by Norwich School Orchestra, Norwich Cathedral, 7.15.  
**Recital** by Vanya Milanova (violin) and Kathryn Stott (piano), St Thomas's Church, Salisbury, 7.30.  
**Concert** by Choir of New College Oxford, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8.  
**Concert** by Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square, Nottingham, 7.30.

### General

**National Herb and Spice Festival:** displays and demonstrations. The Maltings, Farnham, Surrey, 10 to 6 (today, tomorrow and Sun).  
**World Wine Fair and Festival.** Exhibition Centre, Cannon Road, Bristol, 6 to 10 today (11 to 4 and 6 to 10 tomorrow).  
**Nature ramble** for children aged 8 and above, meet Haggis Castle, Pollokshields, Glasgow, 2.15.  
**Antiques Fair, Blackfriars Hall, Norwich, 11 to 5 (10 to 5 tomorrow).**  
**Flower festival.** St Bartholomew's Church, Armley, Leeds, 7.30 to 9.30 tonight (10 to 5 tomorrow, noon to 5 Sun).

### Anniversaries

**Births:** John D. Rockefeller, Richard, New York, 1839; Alfred Bloet, psychologist, Nice, 1857; Percy Grainger, composer and pianist, Melbourne, 1882; Deaths: Christiana Hyatt, astronomer and physicist, The Hague, 1695; Percy Bysshe Shelley, drowned at sea near Leghorn, Italy, 1822; Havelock Ellis, physician and writer, Westbrook, Suffolk, 1939.

### Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on the youth training scheme.

### The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	28.85	27.30
Austria Sch	82.00	78.00
Belgium Fr	1.95	1.87
Canada \$	14.70	14.00
Denmark Kr	8.04	8.44
Finland Mk	12.20	11.70
France Fr	4.09	3.89
Germany DM	138.00	128.00
Greece Dr	11.35	10.70
Hongkong \$	1.30	1.23
Ireland Pt	241.50	229.00
Italy Lira	388.00	368.00
Japan Yen	4.58	4.36
Netherlands Gld	11.65	11.10
Norway Kr	182.00	171.00
Portugal Esc	209	194
South Africa Rd	226.00	215.00
Spain Ptas	12.26	11.66
Sweden Kr	3.39	3.22
Switzerland Fr	1.58	1.53
USA \$	141.00	133.00

Rates for small denominations bank notes only, as quoted by Barclay Bank International Ltd.

Retail Price Index: 333.9.

London: The FT Index closed down 5.6 at 691.0.

### Food prices

There is a wide range of salad ingredients in the shops. Cus and Webb lettuce at 30-40p each, and iceberg cheaper than usual at 60-80p each because of increased English supplies. English, Channel Island and Dutch potatoes: potatoes excellent quality at 40-50p a pound, large best quality tomatoes 50-60p; cucumbers 25-40p each according to size; radishes 22-30p a bunch; spring onions 22-30p; celery 55-75p a head.

The English strawberry season is well under way and supplies and quality are very good, 60-75p a pound. Home-grown raspberries are coming into the shops at around 30p a quarter pound punnet. Other good buys are nectarines 8-25p each, peaches 5-10p, many varieties of Spanish plums 25-50p a pound. New Jamaican mangoes are strongly recommended, as are Spanish melons (again several types). Home-produced lamb prices are lower than at this time last year. Both Tesco and Sainsbury's have whole leg at £1.44 a pound; loin chops, range from £1.65 to £2.35. But for those reluctant to cook in this hot weather Marks and Spencer have a wide selection of excellent prepared foods, including packs of 12 Chinese-style chicken wings at 93p a pound, sliced smoked gammon at 82p a pack of 20 slices, and small quiches at 35p each.

### Top films

- Top box-office films in London:**
- 1 Return of the Jedi
  - 2 Octopussy
  - 3 Flashdance
  - 4 Morky Python's The Meaning of Life
  - 5 Tootsie
  - 6 Educating Rita
  - 7 One From the Heart
  - 8 The Year of the Dragon
  - 9 The Year of the Dragon
  - 10 The Year of the Dragon
- The top five in the provinces:**
- 1 Return of the Jedi
  - 2 Tootsie
  - 3 Educating Rita
  - 4 The Year of the Dragon
  - 5 Spring Break
- Compiled by Screen International

### Roads

**London and the South-east:** A 21: Single lane traffic at Capel and Lamberhurst Quarter, near Tunbridge Wells. M40: Eastbound lane closures between junctions 25 and 26 (Taunton). A361: Roadworks on Taunton to Bampton road West of Wiveliscombe, Somerset.

**Midlands and East Angles:** M45: Closed eastbound at Rugby; A11: Northbound diversions at High Street, Knowle, West Midlands.

**M1:** Lane closures between junctions 28 and 29 (A38, Mansfield) to A617, Chesterfield.

**M6:** Lane closures between junctions 19 and 20 (Chester).

**Scotland:** A75: Single lane traffic with lights at Threave Bridge, W of Castle Douglas. A77: Single lane traffic S of Dundee, Ayrshire.

**M5:** Lane closures between junctions 5 and 7 (Falkirk to Kincardine Bridge).

### The papers

Now the election is over the truth about Government spending cuts is coming out, says the Daily Mirror. "No one can say they weren't told - the Mirror told them often enough; when will they ever learn?"

The Government promised to take an axe to public expenditure which is acting as a brake on the nation's prospects for growth, says the Daily Express, but yesterday's plans "have left it looking as though it had been gently gone over with a small, fine nail file."

### Pollen forecast

	Pollen count	Peak time
Aberdeen	High	midnight to 8
Belfast	High	noon to 3 pm
Birmingham	High	noon to 3 pm
Bristol	High	noon to 3 pm
Cardiff	High	noon to 3 pm
Edinburgh	High	noon to 3 pm
Exeter	High	noon to 3 pm
Glasgow	High	noon to 3 pm
Leeds	High	noon to 3 pm
London	High	noon to 3 pm
Manchester	High	noon to 3 pm
Newcastle	High	noon to 3 pm
Nottingham	High	noon to 3 pm
Sheffield	High	noon to 3 pm
Southampton	High	noon to 3 pm
Stirling	High	noon to 3 pm
Swansea	High	noon to 3 pm
Torquay	High	noon to 3 pm
Wolverhampton	High	noon to 3 pm
Wrexham	High	noon to 3 pm

### Lighting-up time

London 9.45 pm to 4.54 am  
Bristol 9.37 pm to 4.34 am  
Edinburgh 10.27 pm to 4.01 am  
Manchester 10.27 pm to 4.01 am  
Plymouth 10.05 pm to 4.05 am

### Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, about 1; F, 33.  
C F  
Birmingham 22 72  
Bristol 22 72  
Cardiff 22 72  
Edinburgh 22 72  
Exeter 22 72  
Glasgow 22 72  
Leeds 22 72  
London 22 72  
Manchester 22 72  
Newcastle 22 72  
Nottingham 22 72  
Sheffield 22 72  
Southampton 22 72  
Stirling 22 72  
Swansea 22 72  
Torquay 22 72  
Wolverhampton 22 72  
Wrexham 22 72

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### Weather

A shallow depression is moving slowly SE towards NW Spain, and an anticyclone will persist over Scandinavia.

### 6 am to midnight

**London, Midlands, central N England:** Fog patches at first, mainly dry, sunny periods, isolated showers developing in places; light mist; max temp 25 to 27°C (77 to 81°F).

**SE, central S England, Channel Islands:** Mainly dry, sunny periods, isolated showers developing in places; light mist; max temp 25 to 27°C (77 to 81°F).

**West Angles, E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee:** Fog patches dispersing inland, persisting on coasts, sunny periods inland, thundery showers developing in places; light mist; max temp 25 to 27°C (77 to 81°F).

**SW, NW England, Wales:** Some mist or fog at first, mainly dry, sunny periods; light mist; max temp 25 to 27°C (77 to 81°F).

**Wales, NW England, Wales:** Some mist or fog at first, mainly dry, sunny periods; light mist; max temp 25 to 27°C (77 to 81°F).

**Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** Mainly dry, sunny periods; light mist; max temp 25 to 27°C (77 to 81°F).

**Outlook for the weekend:** Mostly dry and sunny; thundery showers in S and SW, very warm or hot from cooler coastal areas.

**SEA PASSAGES:** S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel: Wind variable, becoming mainly E, light sea smooth. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind variable, becoming mainly E, light sea smooth.

**Sunrise:** 5.05 am  
**Sunset:** 8.18 pm  
**Moon sets:** 4.53 am  
**Moon rises:** 7.22 pm  
New Moon July 10.

### Lighting-up time

London 9.45 pm to 4.54 am  
Bristol 9.37 pm to 4.34 am  
Edinburgh 10.27 pm to 4.01 am  
Manchester 10.27 pm to 4.01 am  
Plymouth 10.05 pm to 4.05 am

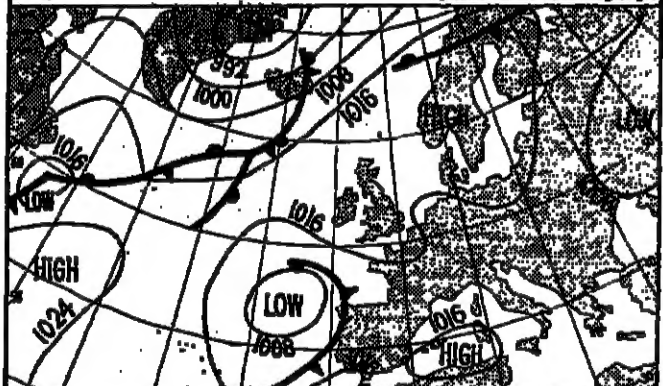
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Newcastle 22 72  
Nottingham 22 72  
Sheffield 22 72  
Southampton 22 72  
Stirling 22 72  
Swansea 22 72  
Torquay 22 72  
Wolverhampton 22 72  
Wrexham 22 72

### Highest and lowest

Yesterday's highest and lowest: Bristol, 27°C (81°F); lowest: London, 0.5°C (33°F); highest: Birmingham, 15.7°C.

### NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars



### High tides

	AM	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.05	12.15	5.2
Aberdeen	12.05	12.15	5.2
Aberystwyth	5.51	11.10	12.3
Belfast	9.50	32	10.17
Cardiff	10.03	10.07	10.1
Doncaster	4.11	4.8	4.51
Edinburgh	9.51	9.3	10.07
Falmouth	3.47	4.5	4.5
Glasgow	11.55	4.3	4.5
Harwich	10.57	37	11.05
Hull	8.12	8.5	8.7
Leamington	8.07	8.5	8.7
London	8.06	8.08	8.0
Manchester	4.5	4.5	4.5
Leith	4.11	4.5	4.30
Liverpool	10.03	8.6	10.32
Lyncey	8.5	8.54	8.5
Margate	10.55	4.4	11.07
Milford Haven	4.55	4.5	5.20
Northampton	4.14	4.14	4.14
Olney	4.43	2.5	4.59
Penzance	3.17	4.8	3.55
Plymouth	3.56	3.54	3.5
Portsmouth	10.14	4.3	10.40
Southampton	9.55	5.5	10.27
Swansea	10.13	10.13	10.13
Torquay	4.57	4.8	5.24
Tyne	4.29	4.5	4.5
Wolverhampton	10.25	11.1	11.1